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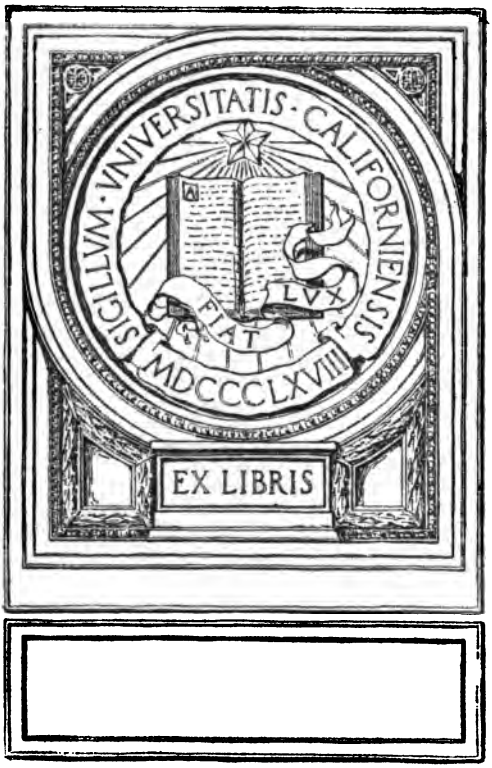
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M. V. RODJANKO
PRESIDENT OF THE IMPERIAL DUMA UNDER THE OLD AND NEW GOVERNMENTS

RUSSIA
IN
REVOLUTION

BEING THE EXPERIENCES OF AN ENGLISHMAN IN PETROGRAD DURING THE UPHEAVAL

BY

STINTON JONES

ILLUSTRATED BY UNIQUE PHOTOGRAPHS

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INTRODUCTION

I ARRIVED in Russia during a revolt; I left it after a Revolution! In November, 1905, I went to Moscow on some special business, which was to detain me six weeks, but which by a combination of circumstances extended themselves into twelve years.

During this period I have travelled all over Russia and Siberia and have therefore been able to assimilate the ideas of the Russians and become fully acquainted with their country and their innermost life. It has always been a matter of interest to me in the various countries I have visited to study how the people live, as it is by this means that one is able to appreciate one's own life in the world.

During my twelve years in Russia I have only made a few visits to England on special

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business, these visits being for a matter of at the most one or two months.

My business has brought me into intimate contact with all classes of Russian life, from the highest to the lowest, and I have always found the Russians throughout to be most kind and hospitable. When people depreciate the Russians on account of their methods of business it is invariably because such persons have been very little associated with them and are insular in their views. Really to appreciate the Russians as a nation you must be broad-minded and understand that their code differs somewhat from ours. It is foolish to imply that because the codes of honour of two nations do not agree that one is right and the other wrong.

To me, Russia has become practically my home, and whenever I have left its frontiers I have always felt a certain feeling of home-sickness for the land with which I have been so closely associated. It is sufficient proof to illustrate my affection and respect for the nation for me to add that my wife is a Russian.

When I returned to England it was to find that little or nothing was known in this country of the great march of events in Petrograd during the five days of Revolution from March 10th (February 25th) to March 14th (March 1st). During those five days I was either in the streets with the crowds or in my office, which is situated in the Nevsky Prospect, and was therefore in the heart of the fighting for twenty out of the twenty-four hours. I was thus able to see things as they really happened, and from my numerous friends on the Revolutionary Committee and in the Duma was able to obtain authentic information as to the happenings at Headquarters.

Rumour I have sedulously put aside as a lying jade, and during a Revolution the air is as thick with rumours as with bullets. I have told what I saw and what I gathered from sources that cannot be questioned. I have many personal friends on both sides, Revolutionists, members of the Duma, officers and working-men. They have always been frank with me because they knew that I kept

strictly aloof from politics. I accepted their hospitality with gratitude, and in return left them to manage their own affairs as to them seemed best.

To call those Five Days a bloodless revolution is absurd; but to call it the revolution of restraint would not be very wide of the mark. I had got to respect and admire the Russian people; but never so much as when all outward restraints were removed. Then it was they showed their splendid qualities, both individual and national. They killed where to their ideas killing was necessary; but the blood-lust of an unlicensed democracy never gripped them to the exclusion of all else.

S. J.

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RUSSIA
IN REVOLUTION

CHAPTER I

THE OLD REGIME

TO understand a great national Revolution, it is necessary to know from what the people have revolted. Communities are more long-suffering than individuals, and when huge empires such as China and Russia overthrow a form of government under which they have lived for centuries, it is because that government is obsolete or tyrannical, or both, and ill-suited to the modern conditions of the people.

This has been the case with Russia. In the past the Divine Right of the Tzar was sufficient to justify any act of the Bureaucracy, and a patient and deeply-religious

people suffered, and accepted as the will of God any act of oppression and injustice on the part of the servants of their ruler.

Hitherto the real Tzar of All the Russias has been the Almighty Rouble. Every official was as venal as a Chinese professional witness. If you desired to save yourself the trouble of a Customs examination of your luggage, a rouble or two would be sufficient. If you found yourself at loggerheads with a cabman, a rouble or two would gain for you the moral and physical support of the police. The United States of America has been said to be the land of the Almighty Dollar; but the Dollar is a muling, puling infant compared with the giant Rouble.

Human life, liberty, fame, a woman's honour—all were liable to be sacrificed to this Moloch of Russia. Everybody knew it and everybody accepted it, at least on the surface; but underneath there were subtle forces at work. The brains of Russia, that is to say her most enlightened sons, saw in this evil something that was threatening the vitals of the nation, and slowly but irrevocably there grew up a patriotic party, known

as the Revolutionaries. They had nothing to do with the Nihilists or Anarchists. They were the real Russians, the patriots who saw the suffering being inflicted upon millions of their countrymen that a few thousands might benefit. They were the Cromwells and the Hampdens of Russia, and it is they who have struck for the rights of the individual, the community and for Holy Russia.

To those who have not come actually into contact with its inhabitants, Russia is generally thought of as a far distant land noted for such products as bears, wolves, Cossacks, bombs, eternal snow, and people of a low order of life clothed in thick furs. Yet in normal times of direct railway communication Petrograd is only fifty hours from London. Above all, with Russia is associated that terrifying word Siberia, conjuring up a vast collection of terrible dungeons, and fearful mines in which starved and tortured creatures carry on a miserable existence under the control of warders and keepers who are little better than beasts.

This seems to be the view of the average intelligent person. Since the War, however,

the Russian people have been brought prominently before the other nations, and they are beginning to be understood for what they really are, a highly civilised, honourable, straightforward, hospitable and gallant nation.

The word Russia comprises a vast territory populated by upwards of 170 millions of people. This population is scattered over the whole dominion. There is not a single city in the whole of Russia with a population of two millions. The population of Petrograd, Russia's largest city, before the war was one and a half millions: it is now about two millions owing to the influx of refugees from the invaded provinces. Again, no two large cities in the Empire are within 400 miles of each other, and in many cases villages are hundreds of miles apart. It is difficult to realise what the distribution of so enormous a number of people under such conditions really signifies. The means by which such communities are linked together leave much to be desired. The roads throughout Russia are by no means good, and owing to severe climatic conditions it is very difficult to keep such roads in decent

repair or even passable. The railways are insufficient to supply the enormous demand for transport. This can be more easily realised when one considers that to place Russia on a par with the United States she would require an addition of at least 60,000 miles of track.

The Russians, however, have handled this difficult problem with great skill, considering the fact that the people have had to contend with the almost unsurmountable opposition of the old Government, ably seconded by the Church. It has always been the chief object of the old regime to advance its personal interests at the terrible cost of suppressing the development of the nation, mentally, morally and physically.

The vast area of the Russian Empire, with its small scattered communities, has played into the hands of the Government, enabling it to carry out its dire purpose. To achieve this object the Government developed a mighty organisation and employed a tremendous staff of men who were willing to sacrifice their fellows for their own advancement. This organisation, slowly developed through

generations, finally became the wonderful if terrible Police of Russia. The units were trained in so harsh a manner as to eliminate entirely their finer feelings and thus give full play to their less human instincts, making them the ideal tools of their masters.

Germany, the land of organisation, can boast of nothing to compare with the Russian police. With all her defects, Germany's organisation is schemed for the nation's development; in Russia, on the other hand, it was an entirely obstructive organisation.

The police of Russia never lost an opportunity, no matter how degrading, of forcing its will upon the people, both high and low, the only exceptions being those at the head of the organisation itself, or such as were willing to pay large sums as bribes. Bribery has been one of the most terrible weapons in the hands of the police. They were given a very small wage, but were permitted to extort bribes from the people in the form of money, food-stuffs, clothes, etc. This accounts for the belief that all Russians take bribes as a matter of course. It was by no means uncommon for the police to be in league with

thieves, and they were frequently party to shady transactions by which the general public was deprived of its hard-earned money.

The customs officials were particularly susceptible to bribes. Even if a traveller to Russia were carrying no contraband and, therefore, had no necessity to resort to a bribe to escape the heavy duties, it was a common practice to hand one of the officials a three-rouble note. By doing this the traveller was saved the inconvenience of having his trunks searched and thoroughly disarranged. Nothing could equal the skill with which such officials would take the money without being noticed.

With the Russian police the practice of bribery and corruption had been reduced to a fine art. They were always willing to employ this, to them, legitimate tool to further their own interests and designs, but more especially when it gave them an opportunity of using their power against the working classes. Their one object was to suppress the liberties of the subject, individually and collectively.

I can give an instance of this that came

under my personal knowledge. A certain firm in Petrograd employed about 200 skilled workmen on important erection work. Everything was progressing very satisfactorily when a new workman applied for work. Within a few days of this man's advent dissatisfaction began to manifest itself amongst the workmen, who finally submitted drastic and impossible demands to their employers, who must either grant them immediately or lose heavily on their contracts. A strike ensued and pickets were established. For three weeks every possible method was tried to induce the men to return, but without avail.

One day a member of the firm happened to mention the fact of the strike to a woman in a Government office whom he knew in her official capacity. "You want my husband," she remarked, "he would soon settle things for you." An invitation to dinner to wife and husband followed. The man turned out to be an unimportant police official. He was told the facts and promised for the inconsiderable sum of 225 roubles (£25) to put an end to the strike in forty-eight hours.

The employers jumped at the offer, although unaware as to how he would act. The only information required by this particular police official were the names of seven of the ring-leaders of the movement. These were supplied, and within forty-eight hours all the men were back at their work under the old conditions with the exception of the seven whose names were given to the police. Of these men nothing further was seen.

Upon investigation, however, it was found that the police had first of all forged a letter to themselves as from one of the seven. The letter stated that this particular workman wished to return to work but was intimidated by the other six, whose names were given. This was sufficient for the police to arrest the entire seven men and exile them from the Petrograd Government, not only the city of Petrograd but the whole province, for a period of three years. Close enquiry showed that these men had been arrested at their homes in the night and, without further ado, placed on a train and sent off, regardless of their families.

The most curious circumstance was that

the police officer actually gave a receipt for the 225 roubles!

The methods employed by the police when they wished to arrest a person without any apparent excuse, is illustrated by what occurred to a very well-known Russian Professor, now practising in Petrograd. During his younger days, and while a student and preparing for his final examination, he was wakened one night by a knock at his door, and upon asking who was there, was told there was a telegram for him. He opened the door and a police officer, accompanied by two subordinates, entered his room and told him to dress immediately and come with them, offering no excuse whatsoever for their action. Knowing that resistance was useless, he accompanied them and was taken to the terrible fortress of St. Peter and St. Paul on the banks of the Neva, opposite the Winter Palace. Here he was placed in a cell and remained there for eighteen months, after which period he was told he could leave, absolutely no excuse whatsoever being given as to the reasons for his detention.

Subsequently, however, he found out that a friend of his who had been frequenting Revolutionary meetings, had been arrested and his effects searched for incriminating documents. In one personal letter this Professor's name happened to be mentioned, and this the police considered sufficient excuse to imprison him for eighteen months. Even when he was aware of the facts, there was no possibility of redress, in fact even a protest could not be lodged, because if he made such a protest it would probably have meant a still longer term of imprisonment. Needless to say, this eighteen months greatly retarded his studies which took him a still further eighteen months to complete.

The police took every opportunity of extorting money from the weaker sex, actually having a scale of bribes to be demanded from the lower orders of women of the streets. In cases where they desired to be revenged upon a girl or woman they could, by means of false and trumped-up charges, bring her into disrepute and, unless their demands were satisfied, they would classify her as a common prostitute. This terrible classifica-

tion would be indelibly stamped upon her passport* and would necessitate her being included with that class with all its degrading associations, and henceforth subjected to the weekly medical examination ordained by law.

The passport system of Russia was in itself a most wonderful organisation, for not only did it give the police absolute and definite knowledge as to the exact whereabouts of every individual in the Empire, but it also gave them an excuse to compile detailed records of the life's history of every inhabitant. Good points in the careers of the people were not notified in these records, but any bad points or slight indiscretions were invariably magnified. Thus if a person broke the law and it suited the police to take the most rigorous steps, they would, by magnifying the offence, punish the offender to suit their own ends.

In a case where a person, although having committed no offence against the law, had earned the enmity of the police who were desirous of getting him out of the way, they

* A prostitute's passport is yellow instead of white.

could by magnifying a previous offence formulate a serious charge. If no such previous offence existed, they could by means of their paid agents concoct a charge which would give the accused not even the right to a fair trial. When the police were desirous of having a person disposed of in this way, Siberia, with its sparse population and vast territories, offered an ideal spot for enforced exile. Once dispatched to Siberia there was little or no chance of return to home and family until it suited the police to permit it.

Even foreigners were by no means free from the passport system, although a foreigner generally suffered very little inconvenience, and was usually treated by the police with a certain amount of respect. Few travellers to Russia were aware that their every movement was noted; yet such was the case, for the police of every district submitted a full report once a month to Headquarters, giving particulars of the movements and the associations of every foreigner.

In cases where foreigners overstepped the law, or otherwise got into the bad books of the police, they were given their passports

with the special request that they would take themselves over the frontier within twenty-four hours. This meant that they would not be permitted to return to the country, and so complete was the system that, if a person were sent out of Russia over the German frontier and endeavoured to return, say, via Odessa, the police there would have full information regarding him and complete details as to the reason why he was expelled.

Some idea of this really wonderful passport system may be gathered from the fact that every person was forced to have a passport, which contained a full description of that person, the members of his family and residence. If a Russian or a foreigner wished to spend a night at any particular address other than that inscribed upon the passport, it was necessary to hand his passport to the head house-man or *dvornick* (a sort of concierge) at the house at which he wished to stay, who would inscribe the circumstance upon the passport and due record would be kept at the police station. Thus at any moment the police would know where to find a person.

In Russia separate private houses do not exist except in villages and small townships. In the cities people reside in flats in large blocks of buildings. Some of these buildings contain as many as six or seven hundred flats of from four to eighteen rooms each. Such buildings have several main and back entrances. At the former is always stationed a *switzar*, or hall porter, who lives usually in a room in the basement of the building and is on duty day and night. Such men are responsible for knowing every person who enters the building. These main entrances are usually locked at midnight and opened at seven in the morning. Between these hours if one wishes to enter the building he has to ring for the door to be opened. If a stranger should ask admittance, he would be asked whom he wished to see, and upon giving the number of the flat and the name of the occupant, he would be escorted to the door by the porter. The back entrances to the building usually open into yards, which communicate one with the other and can be closed by means of a gate leading to the street.

The entire building is always under the control of a *stachi-dvornick*, or concierge, to whom the *switzars* are answerable. In addition to the *switzars*, the *stachi-dvornick's* staff consists of a number of under-dvornicks who are employed in keeping the premises clean, removing kitchen refuse from the flats and in supplying them with the necessary wood fuel; coal is never used. Day and night one of these under-dvornicks is stationed at the street gate leading to the yards, which gate is controlled in a similar manner during the night as the main entrances.

These dvornicks are in some measure servants of the police, for in the event of it being necessary for a policeman on point duty to leave his post, he would simply call the nearest dvornick to take his place. This man would then have full authority to act as a policeman, his insignia of office usually being a green sash. If the policeman required to send an arrested person to the police station, he would give him in charge of one of these dvornicks, who would be answerable for the safe conduct of that person. In the case of an unruly person

being arrested, a number of such dvornicks would convey the captive to the police station.

The stachi-dvornick was compelled to keep a complete record of every inhabitant in the building, and it was to him that all passports were submitted when one wished to stay a night in the building. These men acted as police spies, and any little gossip they might overhear from the servants in the different flats would be fully reported to the head man, who would in turn record these matters in his books. These porters were always very poorly paid and were, therefore, very susceptible to the inevitable bribe. If a person wished to stay a night or so in any particular house, a rouble to the stachi-dvornick was sufficient to prevent his passport being endorsed with the fact of his visit.

Another interesting fact in connection with these large residential buildings is that the house owner is responsible for the upkeep and general maintenance of the roadway immediately adjoining his house from his walls to the centre of the road. Therefore, throughout the cities and towns in Russia it

is a common sight to see a most varied patchwork of roadway. One house may, for instance, favour wood-paving, the house directly opposite is prejudiced in favour of asphalt, whereas to the right may be cobbles and to the left granite sets, a different form of wood paving, or even macadam. Each particular piece of road was usually quite good in itself, but where one type of road joined another there was usually some slight unevenness. It must not be imagined that every house-owner holds different views on the subject of road-making, but nevertheless patchwork roads may be seen in many places. On main thoroughfares, such as the Nevsky Prospect, the police in recent years have issued instructions that wood-paving must be adopted throughout.

Another matter which is the responsibility of each individual house-owner is the cleaning of his particular piece of road. On this point the police are very strict, and therefore during the winter, even after a most heavy snowfall, the roads are quickly cleaned and the pavements well swept and sanded. If a person should slip on badly cleaned pave-

ments and injure himself he can claim damages from the house-owner.

This system of managing houses in Russia certainly has its advantages, but nevertheless it was a part of the police spy organisation.

The inhabitants of Russia having such hard task-masters and with practically no say in the management of their own affairs, were naturally very embittered against the police, and they saw in Revolution their only hope of salvation.

Any person possessed of more than the average amount of intelligence, and who was conscientiously interested in the immediate and future well-being of his fellow-citizens, soon became an object of suspicion to the police, who quickly arranged that such a person should disappear. Thus during the many generations preceding the recent Revolution, the brains of Russia have been sent to Siberia to stagnate out of harm's way.

When the police decided to exile a person to Siberia, they gave no notice of their intentions. The hapless wretch had no

opportunity of bidding good-bye to his relatives. He was arrested and without further ado dispatched to Siberia under a number, and from that moment all knowledge of him by his relatives ceased, unless they agreed to bribe the police to be allowed secretly to communicate with him, or the prisoner in question was sufficiently influential amongst the Revolutionary Party to be able to communicate through its Secret Agents.

Although containing an enormous number of undesirables, Siberia possessed remarkably few prisons. Owing to the size of the territory and the fact that for at least six months in the year the ground is covered by deep snow, also that the villages and towns are so far distant from one another, prisons as we understand them with stone walls, dungeons and barred windows were not necessary. They were reserved for the criminals. It was sufficient for the police to send a prisoner to any particular village with instructions that he should report twice a day to the police officer in charge to prevent him escaping. The general punishment for fail-

ing to report at the stated times was a term of confinement, or, in the case of an alleged dangerous prisoner, death.

The prisoners themselves were allowed their freedom in the particular village to which they were exiled, and for their livelihood were permitted to work for the peasants. In a number of cases their friends were allowed to send them money, but only through the medium of the police, who generally arranged that the hapless individual received little or nothing. In cases where a prisoner had shown himself in private life to be exceptionally energetic and capable of influencing his fellows against the police, he was treated by them as dangerous and generally exiled to some distant village in the far north of Siberia. This alone was a terrible torture for an intelligent mind to be thus transplanted to live among the lower orders of Siberian peasants.

In addition to the political prisoners, a large number of criminals and murderers were also sent to Siberia. These were mostly sent to prisons, which are everything that is vile. Murderers or prisoners sentenced for

life were invariably sent to the mines, which were worked in the Government interests. Such criminals were usually chained to wheelbarrows, or, for those employed otherwise, a weight was chained to the leg or they wore an iron belt to which their ankles and wrists were attached by lengths of loose chain. These chains were never removed, and death was the only relief for the miserable creatures wearing them. Such prisoners wore distinctive prison dress, but as an additional precaution against their escaping without detection, one half of their heads were always kept shaved, so that should they ever escape and allow the hair to grow it would be of a different texture to that on the other side of the head and also of a different shade. Thus they would be branded for life no matter where they went.

The transport of these poor creatures from their homes to the point nearest on the railway to the place of their exile was generally by means of cattle trucks, in which as many as thirty or forty were herded together and fed through a small barred window. The trucks were not opened until they reached

their destination, and such journeys might take from four to fourteen days. No regard was shown to sex, both men and women being herded together, without any sanitary provision.

Upon reaching the end of their terrible journey by rail, it by no means followed that they had finished their travels, for the railways beyond the limits of the Trans-Siberian Railway are practically nil. The rest of the journey to their final destination had, therefore, to be made on foot, or, at the best, in springless carts in summer or open sleighs in winter. Such journeys would be anything from fifty to several hundreds or even a thousand miles. It is easy to realise the awful sufferings these poor wrecks of humanity had to undergo, with nothing to look forward to but a terrible existence for the rest of their natural lives.

In cases where prisoners were sentenced to a definite term of exile, never less than a period of years, and they subsequently returned to their friends and homes, it was in a most pitiable condition. Siberia always leaves its tragic mark, turning youth into

age and the strongest man into a palsied wreck. In many instances a man would be ruthlessly snatched from his home without a moment in which to prepare for his departure, or even to say good-bye to his family. When he returned after his period of exile it was frequently to find that not only had his home disappeared, but that his wife and family had either vanished or had died of starvation, or worse still were eking out an existence worse than death struggling to keep body and soul together. Such men not unnaturally nourished the bitterest feelings towards the Government and its employees. They had only one hope—revenge.

It is quite a common thing in Russia to meet a man whose appearance would indicate that his age is anything between sixty and eighty, whereas it is actually not more than thirty or forty. Enquiry would generally elicit the fact that the unfortunate was studying as a student at one of the Universities, or as a peasant working on the land, when for some trivial offence, possibly for attending some minor Revolutionary meeting, he had been taken by the police and without

trial exiled to Siberia for a period of ten or fifteen years.

In parts of the far Northern Siberia, where villages are hundreds of miles apart and the peasants wish to travel they adopt a novel means. Horses will not stand the strain of such long journeys and sometimes trained wolves are employed to draw their sleighs. Such wolves are captured as cubs and become domesticated. These animals are able to maintain a steady pace for many miles without tiring and require little food. Two well-grown wolves are sufficient to draw a man and a sleigh with a stock of provisions for many miles. This is an interesting but not unusual sight in North Siberia.

Although a large section of the population of Russia is highly educated, there is a distinct break between the educated classes and the peasantry, as practically no middle class existed, at least until a few years ago. In Russia the middle class has of late been growing at a tremendous pace, and without doubt the future destiny of Russia rests in its hands. As this middle class develops it will have the advantage of youth, inasmuch

as it will not be permeated with old-fashioned ideas, but will start its new life from a modern and up-to-date standpoint, using the experience, trials and adversities of the middle classes of other nations as its foundation. It will after a few generations become a definite upper middle class and therefore raise the lower orders of Russian life to a basis similar to that of the so-called lower classes of other nations. Then Russia will become a really great nation, great in good government, and will be able to look with pride upon the fact that the old order of the peasantry, or serfs, has been entirely eliminated and a higher standard established.

In some parts of Russia there are several very strange little colonies or communities which still exist. They are the descendants of German colonists who were invited to Russia by Catherine II with a view to showing in a practical way to the peasants how, with a little effort and patience, the land could be cultivated. These colonists were given a certain tract of land which was considered exceptionally difficult, and were allowed to employ their own methods to improve it.

Such a colony still exists within twenty miles of Petrograd itself, and even to-day they still retain their old methods and habits of life, and even continue to speak the German language, although the people in their immediate neighbourhood have quite forgotten that they are of German origin. They have amply justified the confidence that was placed in them, for the land which was reclaimed by their ancestors, to-day supplies them with a livelihood.

When visiting this colony the impression gained was of having been transplanted into another world, for each old haus-frau was always most hospitable, and willing for a very small sum to supply you with a really good old-fashioned meal, as they still retained their old-time culinary skill.

They have naturally intermarried with the Russians, but not to any great extent. In fact these colonists have so become part and parcel of their immediate surroundings that during the Revolution they were left quite unmolested.

Although Russia under the old regime was always a land of restrictions, nevertheless

owing to the fact that such restrictions could be removed by small bribes it was really a land of the fullest freedom, especially for foreigners, who could certainly get the greatest enjoyment out of life, provided they left questions regarding politics and religion severely alone.

The Russians as a nation are very musical, and nations with such tendencies are generally great lovers of pleasure. Although home life as we in England understand it is practically non-existent, yet the average Russian, more especially of the upper classes, leads a free and untrammelled existence. They are, or were, hard drinkers, heavy smokers and good gamblers, and very generous with their money. With such instincts they are able to get the utmost out of life. All the large cities, and especially Petrograd, were able to supply unbounded pleasures even to the most hardened connoisseur. Petrograd itself was one of the gayest cities in Europe, for life to the upper classes was one round of pleasure. To cater for the needs of the public there were numerous magnificent café chantants, dancing

halls and theatres, and certainly some of the balls held throughout the season were of the most magnificent character, making a kaleidoscope of beauty with the wonderful toilets of the lovely women and the gorgeous uniforms of the officers. Such dances were kept up throughout the night to the accompaniment of really good music.

One great feature of Russian winter life was the Imperial Ballet, which was without doubt one of the most wonderful and gorgeous spectacles that any one could wish to see. It was only by booking a seat weeks or even months in advance that one was able to obtain admission.

In addition to the numerous enjoyments obtainable in the city, Russia, more especially the north, offers every possible inducement to the sportsman, for in the winter ice-yachting, skating, toboganing, ice-hilling, snow-ski-ing and hockey may be had under the most ideal conditions; while in the summer-time, tennis, rowing, yachting and bathing.

In Petrograd during the months of May and June they have what are called the

"White Nights," that is daylight throughout the twenty-four hours. During the latter part of May the sun is visible all night, and tennis can be played at midnight. It is curious that during these White Nights, although one certainly has less sleep than at other times owing to the wonderfully clear atmosphere, one does not suffer from fatigue. In fact in Russia very few people do suffer from fatigue, as the Russians are not a particularly energetic race and always have a "zarftra," meaning a to-morrow. They are always content to put off until to-morrow what is likely to interfere with the pleasures of to-day. This expression is sometimes maddening when it is employed, as it very often is, in connection with business. Another favourite expression universally employed throughout Russia is the word "nechevo," which is one of those terms which mean a hundred things. Nechevo really means nothing, but it also implies, It doesn't matter, Don't worry, Don't bother, etc. It is certainly the most aggravating word in the whole of the Russian language.

Owing to the gay and irresponsible lives

which the majority of the Russians live, and also owing to the very poor and old-fashioned sanitary methods, disease was prevalent to an alarming extent, more especially that terrible plague which is foolishly called by us "the hidden scourge," and which in England has recently been the subject of a Royal Commission. The Russians use the proper term, as they are a nation of broad-minded people and do not attempt to disguise the terrible meaning of any word by substituting a phrase having a cleaner sound. In the towns and cities the disease was checked as far as possible by a most competent staff of doctors, but in the villages the people trust more to the teachings of their religion for cure than to medical practice.

The great majority of villages, particularly the smaller ones, looked upon doctors as beings of evil intent, and it is only of later years that they have been convinced of a medical man's true value. From this may be easily understood that when once a disease, especially such a one as "the hidden plague," attacked a village, it had every opportunity of spreading its disastrous effects, for the

Russians, and more especially those of the lower orders, have little or no morals. In some of the far distant villages it was possible to see practically every resident suffering from some stage of the disease. If medical men attempted to visit them with a view to assisting them or to reorganise their general sanitary arrangements, they would be met with open hostility, the people being convinced that such sufferings as they were enduring were sent to them as a punishment by God. Such belief, in accordance with the old regime, the Church did not attempt to rectify. It was in accordance with the tradition of the old regime. In the cities "the hidden plague" is probably more prevalent than in this country.

Russia may be described as a magnificent place for the classes, but a very indifferent one for the masses. The twentieth century seems determined that the masses shall rule the world, and its call has been at last heard in Russia.

The suppression of the peasantry and lower orders of the Russian nation in the past was a part of the diabolical scheme of the Govern-

ment, which always took particular care to retard the education of the people as much as possible, and it is for this reason that even in the twentieth century the greater portion of the population of Russia is illiterate.

CHAPTER II

THE SLEEPING GIANT

FOR every poison there is an antidote, that for misrule being Revolution. No system that aims at enslaving the spirit of a people can continue indefinitely. In Russia the secret Revolutionary Party became stronger each year. It comprised those intelligent Russians who had managed to escape the eagle eye of the authorities. This Revolutionary Party must not be confused with the Anarchists or Nihilists, whose watchword is destruction. The Revolutionary Party is constructive, having for its object the overthrow of the Government with the view to developing the nation as a whole, and relieving millions from its awful reign of suppression. The Anarchist-Nihilist group, on the other hand, is mostly recruited from those with unbalanced minds or actuated by

ideas of revenge, and who, when occasion offered, performed acts of violence or assassination, which the police always attributed to the Revolutionary Party.

The police were of course aware of such organisations and used every instrument in their power to stamp them out, but their efforts were unavailing. Owing to the secret nature of the Revolutionary movement the police formed their special Secret Service, the members of which usually consisted of the lowest possible characters. These were detailed off to endeavour to worm their way into the confidence of the people by any means in their power, and so become appointed to one of the numerous secret Revolutionary Councils. When such an agent succeeded in this, information was promptly given to the police, and in many instances the members of such secret Councils were arrested in a body and dispatched to Siberia. The Revolutionary Party, however, was not behindhand. It formed a Secret Service of its own, whose agents in turn wormed their way into the police organisations and so kept their principals informed as to impending

movements on the part of the police. Many thousands were so employed on both sides through the country, and when a traitor was caught by either party he was given short shrift.

Thus for generations there has been an unacknowledged Civil War raging throughout Russia. The Government through its police seeming in supreme control of the people; the people, on the other hand, striving to break down the police organisation and overthrow the Government for the benefit, not only of their own race, but of the world in general. It must not be forgotten that Russia is one of the most valuable, if not the most valuable country in the world, and with very little difficulty generations ago could not only have been made self-supporting in every respect, but could have supplied other countries with an enormous amount of much-needed products.

Such development, however, would have been in direct opposition to the interests of the Government and to the personal interests of those individuals in control. More especially would it have been a direct menace to

Germany with her ideals of world power, for through generations Germany has been impreghating the authorities in Russia with her own ideas of absolutism. It was to Germany's interest that the Government should have supreme control and rule with an iron hand, and thus render Russia less dangerous as a factor in opposition to German interests. An undeveloped Russia left Germany an excellent field for her produce and, at the same time, permitted her to keep a large army of spies overrunning the country.

For many years the majority of the leading members of the Russian Government have been, if not actual Germans, at least Germany's paid agents. This has been many times proved during the present War. In addition to Germany's almost complete control of the actual Government of Russia, she has, by means of her well-developed commercial organisation, arranged that the majority of the larger works and industrial concerns in Russia should be managed by Germans, or Germans naturalised as Russians. Thus she has been able to keep her finger on the pulse of Russia for her own interests.

It is thought by many that Germany planned for Russia to enter the field against her to give France a greater sense of security, the ultimate purpose being to force Russia, through the medium of Germany's influence at the Court and her agents in high offices in the Russian Government, to make a separate peace and so simplify the overthrow of France. Then as a further act in her diabolical scheme, Germany was to turn upon and entirely subjugate Russia to her will.

With a people held down by such an iron hand and with secret strife simmering through the whole nation, small eruptions were bound to break out at different periods. Such outbreaks were generally classified, incorrectly, by the Government as Revolutions, and were suppressed with the utmost rigour and brutality, the lives of hundreds of innocent persons counting for nothing. At various times such outbreaks have occurred, but, owing to the general ignorance of other nations as regards matters Russian, they were considered of little interest to the outside world, although when successfully suppressed the Government took pains that particulars should be

circulated throughout the country to convince the people that their masters were supreme.

The Revolutionary Party was continually and secretly working up its organisation to a point when it could feel confident of bursting out into open Civil War, and overthrowing the Government. In 1905 such an attempt was made, but its non-success was due to the fact that the Government, through its secret agents, was able to force a premature outbreak of hostilities. The revolt was suppressed with extreme brutality and great slaughter.

When the police wished to force such a revolt for the purpose of weakening by means of slaughter the power and spirit of the Revolutionary Party, their method was to stir up dissatisfaction among the peasantry and working-classes. If peaceful processions were formed by the people, the police would arrange for their secret agents to mingle freely with the crowds and then perform some act of violence which would give the official uniformed police and soldiers an excuse to fire on the crowds. These pogroms temporarily damped the spirits of the people

and so broke down the efforts of the Revolutionary Party. Nevertheless this simply added to the determination of the Revolutionists.

The Army of Russia was generally regarded by the Government as being loyal to the throne, owing to the fact that the Russians, who are a religious and superstitious people, considered the Tzar as a supreme being who was not only head of the Church but also head of the Army. Nevertheless the Government were forced to recognise that the Army itself was a doubtful asset. On the other hand, the Cossacks were always looked upon as being absolutely loyal and reliable servants of the Government. Further to ensure their loyalty they were better treated than the ordinary Army, receiving higher pay and also invariably a special grant of land in the neighbourhood of their homes when their term of service expired. It was with this backing of Cossacks and the tremendous police organisation that the Government were able to work their will upon the people.

This state of affairs has been going on for generations, but has been gradually develop-

ing to the advantage of the Revolutionary Party. The signs closely followed during the last twelve years of intimate association with Russia have proved that the police, although continually strengthening their force, have not been able to outdistance the Revolutionary Party, which was convinced that the strongest weapon it could possibly wield would be the education of the people as a whole and the crushing out of superstition. To attain this end the leaders had gradually developed their own secret system for teaching the people that they were more than chattels, and that they were human beings breathing the same air and living in the same country as those in supreme control.

Their efforts were greatly assisted by the gradual but natural expansion of the various industries, for although such expansion was extremely slow, owing to the efforts of the Government, yet more and more of the peasantry were migrating to the towns and manufacturing centres to supply the increasing demand for workmen. This gave their friends the opportunity for which they were

working to clear away the old inherited cobwebs of ignorance and suspicion, and allow the simple peasants to become more or less intelligent units of the community. This the Government were powerless to entirely prevent.

After they had been in contact for several years with the town-bred people these peasants naturally became more developed mentally, and, upon returning to their villages, they gave details of their wonderful experiences to their friends and became for the time the idols and heroes of their particular communities. This, together with the still increasing demand for workmen, led to the more adventurous spirits trying their luck in the towns, and thus the populations of the cities gradually increased, at the same time advancing and strengthening the power of the Revolutionary Party. This advancement has been more perceptible during the last six or seven years. In fact the majority of the villages, except those at great distances, have changed in many of their ways and have become more or less modernised, if such a term may be used when one considers that

they still closely adhere to the methods of hundreds of years ago.

Russia has always been a country of contradictions, and it was possible to see even in some of the smaller towns quite modern practices in operation, such as electric lighting and telephone systems. It was a strange experience to arrive at a small township in the wilds of Siberia and find such evidences of modernity. Although the Russians were keen to take up such advanced appliances of civilisation, they were very backward in respect to others. For instance, there is hardly a town in Russia, other than the principal cities and larger provincial towns, where there is to be found an adequate system of water-supply, or the slightest trace of modern sanitation. Even in Petrograd to-day quite a large part of the sanitary network consists of wooden pipes made by simply boring through the trunk of a tree, the ends being shaped so as to fit one into the other. As a natural consequence, owing to the accumulation of dirt, the rotting of such pipes, etc., disease is prevalent to an alarming degree.

Even such absolute necessities as good

sanitation and good water-systems were suppressed or retarded in their execution by the Government, although numerous projects were continually being put forward. Owing to the system of bribery and corruption among the higher officials, such projects were always deemed too expensive and thus cancelled.

A Russian village does not mean a cluster of well-built clean-looking little houses, nicely kept gardens, well-built roads and well cared for cattle. It almost invariably consists of two long rows of most dilapidated and crest-fallen-looking hovels situated on either side of a bare stretch of land masquerading under the title of a road. Gardens do not exist and cleanliness is unknown, not only as regards the habitation itself but also the inhabitants and all their possessions.

Accustomed as they are to living for generations in such a state of dirt, Russian peasants do not realise why a foreigner should be surprised at their mode of life. A long journey of several hundred miles by sledges cannot be undertaken in one day and frequently necessitates the spending of

one or more nights on the road. The journey is usually broken at some village, when the head-man is only too delighted to offer every hospitality in his power. If the arrival be late at night he will immediately treat you as an honoured guest and clear out the many inmates from the best bedroom; this he will offer to you.

The Russian peasants' houses generally consist of two or three rooms, and in these rooms probably a family of twelve or fourteen persons will live, which naturally reduces the sleeping accommodation to a minimum; nevertheless one room is always placed at the disposal of a visitor. They will also do their utmost for your personal comfort, bringing out their best samovar, glasses and tablecloth, together with the best the larder can offer.

This all sounds very pleasant and cosy, and so it is for the first few minutes until you become used to the dim light from the oil lamp or candles and glance at the walls of the room, then you notice that they are apparently moving, and literally so they are. The Russian peasants appear to be quite

immune from insect bites. In addition the floors are generally well populated by tremendous brown and black beetles. Whatever your feelings at the moment, it is difficult to refuse the well-meant hospitality of these splendid Russians. The only thing to be done is immediately to conjure up a diplomatic excuse for passing the night well wrapped up in the sledge outside, rather than face the ordeal of passing a restless night within.

It must be remembered that the temperature within the rooms is almost unbearable, especially as we clothe ourselves. In some of the very poor villages in the North, where the temperature falls to an extremely low point, the villagers find it difficult, especially after an exceptionally heavy snowfall, to obtain and bring in the necessary fuel for the stove, and therefore hoard up what they have for cooking purposes. As a means of keeping the house warm, they cover the whole building, with the exception of the door and windows, with an additional wall of manure. The result is that both temperature and odour are fairly high.

In spite of this the Russians in accordance with the teaching of their religion take great pains to have a thorough bodily cleansing once a week, and for this purpose every village has at least one building known as "The Bath," where people can go and have the pleasure of a thoroughly good wash on the Russian system. The bath generally consists of three large rooms, the first being for disrobing, the second a large washing-room with a good supply of soap and clean water, from which after having washed themselves thoroughly they pass on to the third apartment. This is the steam-room, heated to a very high temperature, containing a large number of tiers or steps reaching to the roof; the higher you go the hotter it gets. Having cleansed his body in a way that would satisfy the most enthusiastic hygienist, the Russian invariably dons the same dirty clothes he had taken off on entering the bath!

In the poorer villages the different sexes take it in turn to use the bath, but in the towns and cities such baths, on a larger scale, generally contain separate sections, one for

males and the other for females. Such baths in the big cities are generally magnificent buildings, containing well-appointed rooms where one can have every possible convenience. A special masseur or masseuse is on hand if required. These buildings usually contain a large number of suites of rooms or private baths, each suite consisting of a dressing-room, a washing-room and a steaming-room. As a rule these suites are very well appointed. Admission to them is generally through a separate main entrance, and credentials or marriage certificates are not demanded from those using them. Such is Russia!

The Russian peasant is a very patient and by no means energetic person. He takes very little interest in his personal comfort, his chief object in life being to get sufficient food to eat and clothing to wear. This to the average person throughout the world is sufficient, but there are very few people who would be content with the food or the clothing of the Russian peasant. Owing to the severity of the winter, the houses are almost hermetically sealed and heated by means of

wood fuel in large brick and stone stoves, which when once heated retain their heat for several days. This raises the atmosphere of the houses to a temperature which would be almost unbearable to us and yet satisfies the needs of the Russians, whose clothes throughout the year are of the most scanty description, their chief if not their only garments being a shirt, a pair of trousers and a pair of boots, the shirt being invariably worn outside the trousers and the trousers inside the boots.

As regards food, the Russian peasant is contented if he has a sufficient supply of black rye bread and hot tea. The latter he seems to have ready at all times and consumes in large quantities. It is usually drunk without milk, a slice of lemon being substituted. This continual tea drinking is to supply the system with moisture to counteract the effect of the tremendously overheated rooms.

The Russian method of making tea is quite distinct from that employed in this country, for by our methods it would be difficult to be provided practically day and night with the

means of obtaining hot tea at a moment's notice. The Russians, however, use a boiling machine known as the samovar, which is always to be found, even in the homes of the very poorest. This samovar consists of a metal boiler, generally made into some fancy form, and through this boiler is arranged a vertical pipe with a grating at the bottom to allow for draught. Into this pipe small splinters of lighted wood are thrown and above this is added a quantity of wood charcoal, which when it becomes ignited burns slowly and heats the water which is poured into the boiler completely surrounding the pipe.

When the charcoal has been sufficiently consumed to give off its gases, the smouldering embers remain and these keep the water boiling. A quantity of very strong tea is then made in a small teapot and when a glass of tea (the Russians seldom, if ever, use cups) is required they pour into the glass a small quantity of this strong brew and add to it boiling water from the samovar, which is supplied with a small tap.

These samovars are made in all sizes, some

of them large enough to supply a hundred glasses, so that as long as the water remains hot a glass of tea is available. The small pot of brew is often allowed to get cold, and it is invariably the habit of the Russians that directly the water in the samovar has been used or has cooled down a fresh supply is boiled. The standard food of black bread is generally supplemented by fish and sometimes by meat.

Every peasant, no matter how poor, has a good overcoat, this being generally made of goatskin or sheepskin, with the wool inside. In addition to the coat they always possess at least one pair of "varlinkies," or felt over-boots, which reach at least to the knee and sometimes to the thigh. In the northern villages felt is replaced by wolf-skin, always with the fur inside. When they go into the cold, all Russians take the precaution of putting on and buttoning up their overcoats before leaving the house. The coats are warmed before they are put on, as they always hang in a temperature similar to that of the rest of the house. In this country in the winter-time an overcoat would be more

appreciated if one would warm the inside before putting it on.

The houses throughout Russia are built with double windows and double doors, one set of windows being taken out during the summer months and replaced for the winter. The crevices are generally sealed with putty, thus enclosing a partition of air between the two windows, which acts as an insulator and prevents the outside cold from affecting the temperature of the room. Between the two windows is generally placed a small jar of moisture-absorbing acid, so as to keep the partition of air free from moisture and thus eliminate the possibility of frost forming on the windows. This is also practised in the majority of the shops, for in those where this system is not employed the windows quickly become covered on the inside with a thick coating of frost which prevents the passer-by from seeing the goods displayed.

The cattle and horses receive no attention whatever beyond the bare feeding. In every village there are generally two houses that stand out beyond the rest, one of these being occupied by the police officer and the other

by the priest. The official lives by what he can extort from the peasants, while the priest lives on their bounty. The Russians never deny the Church their best, for as a nation they are as devout as they are hospitable, and they are always willing to share their last crust with a friend or traveller.

The great difficulties of the Revolutionary movement may be appreciated from the fact that it has had to develop its organisation throughout the whole of the Empire and yet be certain of secrecy. It is thanks to the Revolutionary Party that such communities as I have described have been able to develop and gradually become more modernised.

CHAPTER III

THE STARVING OF PETROGRAD

IN the abolition of that terrible drink vodka, Russia took her first step in the direction of her own salvation. For generations vodka has been the curse of Russia and has been a tremendously strong tool in the hands of the Government, for it was supplied to the people in unlimited quantities under Government monopoly, from which a tremendous revenue was derived. At the commencement of the War the more intelligent members of the Russian communities were convinced that little would be achieved if vodka were allowed to continue its terrible devastation of the race. Vodka is a drink that is very little understood outside Russia. It is really half potato spirit half adulteration, and has always been consumed in large quantities by the Russians.

Taken in small quantities as an appetiser before a good meal it is certainly excellent and stimulates the appetite, bringing out the flavour of food, but taken in large quantities before a small meal and that consisting of, say, a piece of fish and a quantity of black bread, it is bad for the system. It becomes more and more inviting as one acquires the taste and habit.

To further its own interests the Government arranged that a good supply of vodka should be available in every town, city and village throughout the Empire. Thus the majority of the lower classes acquired or inherited the vodka habit, spending most of their hard-earned money in its purchase. The result was impaired health, and in many cases the reduction of their families almost to the verge of starvation, owing to the bread-winner spending practically every copeck on vodka.

It is hardly possible to estimate how much the abolition of this national drink has contributed towards the saving of Russia, for the good effects of its abolition soon became apparent. Where previously the lower

classes had spent all, or the greater portion, of their earnings upon drink, and thereby sacrificed the health and comfort of themselves and their families, now they are able with their minds clear to realise the terrible effects which it had had upon them. They also had the greater comfort of having money to spend upon their personal requirements.

The abolition of vodka, however, was to have the most far-reaching effects. Having more money to spend on their personal comforts has opened the eyes of the peasantry and working-classes to the terrible state in which they have been living for generations. Their first impulse on finding they had money to spare was to buy new clothes. When they saw that these new clothes were rapidly getting spoiled by contact with their uncleaned habitations and general surroundings, it became obvious to them that still greater comfort in life could be obtained by taking a little care as to personal and domestic cleanliness. They were able to buy more articles of furniture and further add to their comfort. In consequence, during the last two

years the majority of the villages have taken on a different aspect, in particular as regards cleanliness.

Again, while they were slaves to the vodka habit and always craving for further supplies, they were willing to sacrifice the produce of their land at a low price, or even mortgage their homesteads, to enable them to satisfy their cravings. Now they are saving money, are more shrewd in their dealings with the middleman and are increasing their holdings of land.

In fact, last year not only did the peasants begin to realise the advantage of saving money, but from all over the country there was a cry of "What are we to do with our money now?" This appeal was immediately answered by the inauguration of banks which accepted the peasants' small savings on deposit at a reasonable interest. Such banks the State was forced to start, and now there is hardly a small town or village throughout the whole of the country without a bank of its own. There are, of course, still extremists who have not yet lost the craving for the spirit, and they resort to numerous

and curious methods for obtaining their beloved vodka.

In Russia it has always been a very dangerous policy to talk or even think of politics or religion owing to the legions of police spies everywhere. In spite of this the Revolutionary Movement has been growing at a rapid pace. Where only three years ago one hardly dare whisper of revolution, since the commencement of the War, when the people began to awake to the fact that the Government were really not working for the interests of the nation, these whispers of Revolution gradually grew into open but guarded talk. During the past year this again has developed into open discussion, not as regards a Revolution to stop the War, or in any way injure the cause of the Allies, but to overthrow the Government with its German intrigues and to establish an administration that would really and honestly work for the interests of the people. Above all, permit Russia to give the full weight of her sword to the cause of justice.

Nevertheless the people, or rather the Revolutionary Party, were not yet quite

confident that the time was ripe for the overthrow of the Government without jeopardising Russia's position with the Allies, and the Revolutionary Party, and in fact the general public, have been lately openly discussing the Revolution that was to take place after the War. Then the Revolutionary Party felt convinced that it would have sufficient power to break out into open Civil War and force the Government to meet its demands.

The Revolutionaries placed great hopes on the returning soldiers, who having been recruited from villages from all parts of the Empire, had had opportunities of general intercourse with each other. Their outlook had been enlarged and they had become more broad-minded and less superstitious, more awake to the fact that, collectively, they would possess an enormous power. In short, strengthened by the Revolutionary organisation and the huge accumulation of secretly-stored arms, they could overthrow the Government in open fight. The Government were aware of this feeling and were forced to act to save themselves, and fulfil their traitorous obligations to Germany.

As recent events have shown time after time, various Ministers in exceptionally high positions in the Russian Government were forced by the people to resign, and in some cases where even their own employers could not cover up their dastardly crimes, they were executed. In many cases these Ministers were of German origin and Germany's paid agents. Finally, after the fall of Stürmer, Protropopoff was appointed to take charge of affairs and it was openly said bring about another revolt of the people. This the Government would then classify as an ungovernable Revolution, and use as an excuse to sign a separate peace with Germany and thus render Russia as a nation despicable in the eyes of the world for generations to come. When the time arrived for Germany to turn and rend Russia, there would be none to help her, and so Germany would progress a step further in her scheme of world domination.

Many months ago, towards the latter part of 1916, the Government commenced this dastardly organisation for the formation of the revolt which was to permit them to fulfil their traitorous aims, but like all evil

organisations where the principals are over-confident of themselves, it was started too late. The first step Protropopoff took was to reorganise the police and draft large bodies of them into Petrograd to swell the ranks of those already there.

It was next arranged for special instruction to be given to a large number of the force in the use of machine-guns. While such instruction was in progress there were commandeered some 1200 modern machine-guns, together with an enormous supply of ammunition, which were urgently needed by the troops at the front. These guns were placed upon the roofs of churches and large buildings throughout the city. They were placed in position during the latter part of December, 1916, and in January, 1917. Although this was done secretly, the general public became aware that certain guns had been placed on roofs and enquired the reason. It was officially given out that they were placed there as anti-aircraft guns to repel any possible attack by the supposed new long-distance Zeppelins of the Germans. This excuse satisfied the public, but not the

Revolutionary Party who, through its secret agents, was perfectly aware of the real purpose of those who had so placed the machine-guns in position.

The leaders determined to increase their efforts to mature their plans so as to be in a position to counter any drastic movement of the Government. Events, however, contrary to the expectations of the Government, followed one another with great rapidity, causing them to hasten their arrangements. During the second half of February all the machine-guns were supplied with ammunition. Enormous supplies of rifles, revolvers and ammunition which should have been, and in fact were recorded as having been sent to the troops at the front, were detained and stored in the various police stations, together with reserve machine-guns. A number of shops, which had been closed some months previously on some concocted excuse, had their windows barred and within were stored large reserves of small arms.

Now that Petrograd's police were well trained, and the Government had practically completed the necessary measures for nego-

tiating secretly and finally with Germany, it only remained for the Ministers to organise the slaughter under the excuse of the word Revolution. To do this it was necessary to force a revolt, or spread discontent among the working-classes throughout the city and its surroundings. In order not to arouse direct and obvious suspicion the Government had for many months been secretly holding up supplies of food-stuffs to the capital, or when such food-stuffs actually arrived they were distributed in such a way that the police were soon able to corner them and have them stored out of the reach of the people.

To prevent the supplies reaching Petrograd every possible obstacle was put in the way of the railway officials. Traffic was blocked wherever possible, goods were side-tracked or sent to the wrong destination, and in many cases trucks of munitions, which should have been sent to the front, were sent to Petrograd, and unnecessary food-stuffs sent to the front instead. When possible these food-stuffs were sent out to some destination in the Ural Mountains where food was plentiful.

As the shortage of provisions gradually became more acute, the people demanded to know the reason. Time after time they were given the same excuse. Owing to the inadequate number of trucks at the Government's disposal there were none to spare for food for the people. Every single truck was being used for the transport of the much-needed munitions to their comrades at the fronts. This was not true. Certainly in the large railway yards round Petrograd, and also at large stations and junctions throughout the country, there were no free trucks to be seen, nevertheless at every small siding right through the Siberian lines there were hundreds and hundreds of empty trucks simply side-tracked out of the way. The vast distances prevented the people knowing this, although those who travelled through Siberia could tell of trucks to be seen blocking every siding.*

Locomotives were also sent back to the workshops in large numbers under the pretext that urgent repairs were necessary,

* About two weeks prior to the Revolution I myself saw thousands of such empty trucks between Petrograd and the Ural Mountains.

which were entirely imaginary. Thus not only were food-stuffs for the inhabitants of the city held up in this way, but munitions that should have been sent to the various fronts were also held up by this self-same excuse of no trucks. Such were the men into whose hands had been placed the destinies of a great nation. It should be noted, however, that if a private person required a truck to send goods from one point to another, one was always available, provided the bribe were large enough. This is not an exaggeration but an actual fact, and it was a common sight to see a goods train with only a few trucks of actual munitions, the remaining trucks being full of goods of no vital importance to the conduct of the war.

As time went on the bribes for such trucks increased. The Government officials did not openly negotiate such matters, but always arranged them through one of their agents or one of the numerous tribe of despicable beings who are always willing to sell their best friends for money. People who were known to require goods transported from one point to another were continually being

approached by such go-betweens. This was done in a quiet way with the remark that "If you want trucks we could arrange to supply them at a price." Of this general situation the workpeople were ignorant, as they believed that the excuses put forward by the Government were legitimate, and that their hardships were due to the fact that their comrades at the fronts were being supplied with the necessary munitions.

One point to illustrate the organised disorganisation of the railways is shown by the following incident. A firm that was building large and very important explosive works for the Government in the Ural Mountains was urgently in need of a number of trucks of roofing material for the buildings, as the absence of this material was delaying the whole of the work. In due course the railway authorities announced that the trucks had arrived and instructed the consignees to take possession of their goods. Upon examination, however, the trucks were found to contain rice. An investigation showed that this rice should have been sent to the troops for food, but instead the roofing material had

gone to the front and the rice to the Ural Mountains!

Another case was where a large works in the Ural Mountains had an enormous amount of copper, which was most urgently needed by the Munition Works at Petrograd, lying in their yards for many months. No trucks were apparently available for its transport, and thus the Munition Works were seriously handicapped in the output of munitions. Such instances as the above were by no means isolated cases but the general practice. Even finished munitions received from the Allies were allowed to be side-tracked or discharged at wrong destinations, and when discharged were simply allowed to rot on the ground, the excuse always being put forward that there were no trucks to remove them. Even big guns were treated in this way; in fact any despicable action that could possibly delay or injure the fighting strength of the armies was carried into effect.

A system such as this soon reduced the necessaries of life in the city to an absolute minimum, and consequently food rose to exorbitant prices, and the real essentials were

almost unobtainable. On the pretext of working in the interests of the people, the Government closed down numerous bakeries and opened what they termed Government Bakeries, where people with tickets could obtain a small dole of the necessary black bread. Luxuries and other unnecessary commodities were in abundance, but at prices far beyond the reach of the average workman.

To obtain the miserable dole of bread from one of these Government shops it was necessary to stand in a long queue and wait your turn. Some of these queues were often over a mile in length with people waiting four deep. This does not sound so terrible a hardship until one learns that the temperature would sometimes be 70° to 80° F. below freezing point with a cutting wind blowing. At the end of many hours' tedious waiting hundreds were turned away with the excuse that all the bread was sold, and poor women had to return numbed with cold to their starving children, for it was upon the women that this terrible task fell as the men were employed in the Munition Works.

These people with their usual patience, and

thinking of their relatives at the fronts fighting for their homes, were content to suffer such hardships, terrible as they were, rather than seem ungrateful to the soldiers by complaining. Nevertheless the human system could not stand the strain, and it was a common thing to hear the women say, "We have given our fathers, our husbands and our brothers, we are willing to give ourselves, but we must have bread for our children."

It will give an idea of the shortage of food in Petrograd when I say that I, who was in a position to pay far more than the average workman, found it almost impossible to obtain a good meal. For the exorbitant price of a guinea I could get a lunch, exclusive of wines, as such were almost unobtainable owing to the prohibition law, still they could be secured if one wished to waste money. Champagne was being sold privately at approximately £6 10s. a bottle, while whisky was obtainable, also privately, at £7 10s. a bottle.

Some weeks before the Revolution, business called me to the Ural Mountains, and upon my return I took the precaution of bringing

with me a good supply of general food-stuffs. In the Ural Mountains food was very plentiful and could be obtained at almost pre-war prices, transport being the only difficulty to be overcome. This I managed by taking with me several old trunks and kitbags. When I returned to Petrograd many of my friends were keenly interested in my supplies, and it was not long before they were sadly depleted, in fact, so much so that during the Five Days of the troubles in the city my colleague and myself had very little else to eat beyond stale black bread supplemented by glasses of hot beef extract, packets of which I had taken with me to Russia. On the Fifth Day this bread was so stale that it had to be broken with the aid of a hammer and then soaked in the beef extract.

As an instance of the irony of fate, Austrian and German prisoners, of which there are a large number employed in the Ural Mountains, were given the best of food, having an unlimited supply of meat, butter, white bread, and sugar, while the Russians themselves at Petrograd were starving.

Although Petrograd and other principal

cities and towns throughout Russia were so short of the necessaries of life, in the provinces, and more especially in Siberia, enormous stocks of provisions were available, only awaiting transport. In one instance many tons of the best cream butter, which was retailing in Petrograd at between seven and eight shillings the pound, were sent to a soap works to be made into soap. For this transport trucks were available, and yet such trucks were not permitted to take the butter to Petrograd.

At one point on the Siberian Railway a block occurred, holding up thousands of tons of meat, which was held up until it became rotten. Then the Government at once granted trucks for its transport, when it was too late and the meat had to be destroyed. Another method employed by the Government of arousing dissatisfaction amongst the people was to remove the special tariff of fixed prices of food-stuffs. This permitted their agents and other inhuman profiteers to raise the prices of necessaries to an alarming extent. These profiteers found that it was to their advantage to

supply a smaller quantity of food at a higher price, rather than take the trouble of bringing in larger quantities to retail at the prices within the reach of the inhabitants.

Although it was generally understood in this country that the people of Petrograd and other cities of Russia were plentifully supplied with food, conditions reached such a pass that not only was the much-needed black bread unobtainable, but practically every other necessary of life. These terrible trials became more and more difficult to bear until finally the people were compelled to complain. This wail of complaint was the great sound the Government was waiting for, and directly it started they immediately employed their army of paid agitators to ferment the feeling of discontent, their object in this being gradually to increase this feeling among the people until they decided to strike and leave their work to form processions in the streets.

AN IMMENSE CROWD ON THE NEVSKY PROSPECT
This was taken after the worst of the fighting

CHAPTER IV

THE ROUSING OF THE GIANT

PROCESSIONS were necessary to the Government's scheme, not only processions but processions capable of acts of violence that should to some extent justify the murderous plans of the police. To achieve this the police agents mixed with the crowds, as they had done many times before, inciting the peaceable citizens to acts that would cause the police and soldiers to fire upon them. Such an act of aggression would be resented by the people, who would in their turn quite naturally commit further acts of violence. Then when these large processions were formed, the machine-guns would open on the people from the roofs of the houses and churches and mow them down in thousands.

Such action would naturally infuriate the

peoples of other cities and townships and a general slaughter would take place all over the Empire. This slaughter would be carried to the most extreme limits, and its influence would naturally reach the soldiers on the various fronts, who would themselves be induced to revolt and thus pave the way for an easy defeat by their enemies. The Government would then classify the outbreak as an ungovernable revolution, and so put forward the excuse that the only way to save Russia would be a separate peace with Germany. Such a peace would be signed, and the people of Russia would from that time be not only despicable in the eyes of the world, but would become nothing more than serfs or slaves of the Germans.

Besides delaying the formation of their plans too long, the Government had not given sufficient consideration to the growing strength of the Revolutionary Party, which had already won over a number of regiments to its side, a circumstance that was kept a profound secret.

The Russian Army is recruited from all stations of life, and the soldiers are without

doubt of the finest fighting material. They are by nature most patient, and lend themselves easily to be moulded into first-class fighting men by their officers. They are fearless fighters and will hold on to the last man rather than disobey orders. The officers of the Army, however, are invariably taken from the better classes and aristocracy, and as a rule take no pains to hide their contempt for the lower classes, from which the great majority of the rank and file are recruited. For generations they have enforced their orders with the utmost rigour and treated the soldiers with harshness and brutality. Of course there were exceptions, but this was the general rule.

Quite naturally the soldiers, although patient, could not help feeling a certain animosity towards their officers, many of whom never realised that their lives would pay the forfeit when the soldiers once got the upper hand. As is well known by the history of the present war, many of the Russian generals were nothing more than paid agents of the Germans and, working on the dog-like obedience of the soldiers, were easily able to sell

them and thus sacrifice thousands of innocent and patriotic beings to fulfil their obligations to their masters. In the early stages of the war many of the retreats and defeats of the Russian armies were due to such creatures furthering their own interests. Gradually these traitors were weeded out and replaced by men of unquestioned loyalty and patriotism.

Of all the generals in high command during the early stage of the war, perhaps Nikolai Nikolaiovitch, or better known as the Grand Duke Nicholas, was probably the greatest favourite of the soldiers and of the people as a whole. He has always shown the greatest love for the Russian soldier, and at the same time contempt for the Germans, who were never able to influence him against his better and patriotic feelings. There is no doubt that his removal from supreme command was due to the success of the German intrigues at Court, for although he is reported as not being a brilliantly clever man, he has the reputation, and rightly so, of being exceptionally strong and just, and no matter was too small to receive his personal attention.

On many occasions he went deliberately out of his way to show his contempt for the Court and its intrigues as a whole. It was through him that during one stage of the fighting a number of very high officials, one even being the head of the entire Russian Secret Service Police, were tried by court-martial and summarily executed.

Towards the end of February there were very persistent rumours that the people had reached the limit of their endurance, and that they were contemplating a peaceful strike with a view to bringing to the notice of the Government their deplorable state. These rumours grew, and on March 6th (February 21st) they became still more persistent, and in fact a few of the workers from a number of the larger Munition Works came out on strike and formed small processions, which were quite peaceful and not yet sufficiently large to suit the official purpose. It was therefore arranged for the agitators to foment these small strikes.

There were in Petrograd stores of vodka, it being used for various munition purposes. These stores were all guarded, but with dia-

bolical intent the Government arranged that the guards should be removed. This would permit of the people, when worked up to a frenzy by the paid agitators, being easily induced to break into these stores and thus fill the streets with drunken and uncontrollable mobs and so still further increase the Government's chance of success.

On March 7th (February 22nd) a larger number of munition workers were on strike and others were joining every hour. In some cases on the outskirts of the town reports came in that there had been slight friction between parties of workmen and the police. At this time it was noticed that there was an exceptionally large number of police all over the city dressed in their usual uniforms, and that patrols of mounted police were stationed in the main thoroughfares.

The people, who had been as far as possible secretly informed by the Revolutionary Party that the strikes were being organised by the Government, could hardly realise that the Government would ever descend to such diabolical practices at such a time of the country's distress and in view of its obliga-

tions to the Allies. The people themselves wished only to form peaceful processions with a view to attract the attention of the authorities to their starving condition. It never entered their minds that, as previously stated, the authorities were deliberately holding up food-stuffs and not dispatching them even to their comrades at the fronts.

During these few days the necessary food of the people was practically unobtainable, and the queues outside the Government shops were greatly increased. Mixing with these queues were women, paid servants of the Government, doing their best to foster the bitter feelings of those waiting for their dole of bread. It was noticed that during these days greater numbers of people were turned away without their supplies, always with the excuse that the shops had no more.

Up to this time only the larger Munition Works were on strike, and a very few of the industrial works and mills. On March 8th (February 23rd), however, practically all the industrial workers and mill-hands came out on strike, and the workmen, together with

their women and children, formed into large processions and marched peaceably through the various main thoroughfares crying, "Give us bread; we are starving and we must have bread." Again reports came through that friction had occurred on the outskirts of the city between the workpeople and the police, but it was quite apparent that the ringleaders of the processions were the usual paid agitators and that they were exceptionally well organised.

These processions were formed almost entirely of the working-classes. The general atmosphere, however, was none too pleasant, and the feeling throughout the city was that trouble was to be expected.

On March 9th (February 24th) all Munition Works and mills without exception were on strike, and numerous processions were formed throughout the city and, as is customary with demonstrations, all marched towards the main thoroughfare, the magnificent Nevsky Prospect. The ranks of the workpeople and their wives and children were now swelled by the wives of the soldiers at the fronts, and in addition to these the

students and quite a large number of the better-class people also joined. Although generally good-tempered they became in some cases rather boisterous. It was quite apparent, however, to persons accustomed to seeing such crowds that they were headed by well-organised leaders, and that these leaders were keen on arousing the people to acts of violence, but at first without success. When such acts were attempted by these agitators themselves, the people did their best to prevent them, shouting, "We are perfectly peaceful, we only want bread."

To fulfil their obligations to their masters, these agitators were compelled to take action, their first step being to stop all tramcars by removing the controller-handles, tying down the collector-bows, and in some cases actually derailing the cars. This caused considerable inconvenience to people going about their usual business, and resulted in the swelling of the ranks of the mobs by the people being forced to go about on foot, giving the impression that the crowds were greater than they really were. The stopping of the trams was sufficient in itself to indicate that serious

trouble was premeditated by the police, and it was soon the cause of eliminating all vehicular traffic in the streets.

One very significant fact noted on this day was that very few police were to be seen, but that the number of soldiers in the streets had increased alarmingly. This was due to the fact that a large number of the police had been already stationed on the roofs of the churches or buildings at their posts by the machine-guns, and that a further large body of them had been dressed as soldiers. This was as obvious as it would be if our London police were taken from their beats and put into soldiers' uniform, for although the Russian police are a well-drilled body of men, yet it is not difficult to recognise a policemen by his bearing. It was also noticed that large patrols of Cossacks on their wiry little ponies were everywhere, and that both Cossacks and soldiers (soldier-policemen) were fully armed, all carrying ball cartridge.

The crowds, however, were not to be drawn into acts of violence, but maintained their peaceful attitude throughout the day. Towards the afternoon a large concourse

gathered in front of the Nikolai Station, the principal station of the Moscow line, and also at various points in the Nevsky Prospect.

While these meetings were in progress, large bodies of Cossacks were called to assist in breaking up the processions. The Cossack is usually delighted to undertake such work and has always found great pleasure in charging through unarmed crowds, especially when they have been permitted to use their najika, or whips. In the use of the whip they are past-masters and can easily cut through a person's clothing and inflict a severe wound. It was noticed on this occasion, however, that the Cossacks seemed in a good humour and were smiling, an unusual thing for a Cossack on duty. Usually their faces wear a serious and set expression. Their instructions were to round up the crowds and endeavour, if possible, to break up their formation. The people, however, remained in a good humour and took very little notice of the Cossacks.

Later in the day when the crowd became more dense, the Cossacks were ordered to break them up by charging through them. It was an exciting sight to see these horsemen

continually charging at full gallop through and through the crowds, but by their wonderful skill in horsemanship they managed to avoid injuring the people. In the few cases where injuries were inflicted it was purely accidental. In these charges the Cossacks retained their good humour, and instead of using their whips simply brandished them in the air. The people on their side cheered the Cossacks, a thing without precedent, which proved that there was some understanding between them.

During the whole of the day the paid police agitators had been striving their utmost to induce the crowds to acts of violence, but without success. When such acts were committed, actually by the agitators themselves, they were severely dealt with by the crowd, who still continued with their cry "We want bread." They also cheered and sang patriotic songs continually.

Hitherto the stage management of the Authorities in dealing with revolts, or semi-pacific processions, had amounted almost to inspiration. Just as the London policemen understand the psychological aspect of huge

masses of people and how to govern them; so the Russian policemen and Cossacks understand the physical aspect of mobs and how to reduce them to obedience.'

I call to mind an incident that occurred during the Tolstoy Student Riots. In the Nevsky Prospect in front of the Alexandrinski Theatre is a large square the centre of which is enclosed by railings. The police saw their opportunity, and with the aid of the Cossacks herded the enormous crowd into this square. Pressing upon the outskirts were Cossacks on their wonderful ponies. The strain became unbearable and the crowd began to climb the railings. Soon the whole place was a dense mass of people. The Cossacks and police then surrounded them and proceeded to detach small groups at a time, which they instructed as to the direction that they were to take. In a short while the crowd was whittled away to nothing. It was a remarkable piece of work.

The Cossack's weapon for mobs is his najika, or whip, which consists of a stock about fifteen inches in length and a leathern thong of about twenty inches, at the end of which

are two small pieces of leather about an inch in diameter, and between them is attached a piece of lead. It is this that does the damage. In peace or war you will never see a mounted Cossack without the inevitable najika dangling by a leather loop from his right wrist.

The dexterity with which he handles this weapon is amazing. He can brush a fly from your face without your feeling it, or he could maim you for life.

It was during these same Tolstoy Student Riots that I saw at close quarters the terrible effects of this najika. Three Cossacks were riding abreast along the pavement at full tilt. I endeavoured to eliminate myself against a wall, and it was fortunate that I did so, for just in front of me stood a student who received a cut from the najika of the nearest Cossack. It caught him upon the shoulder, and in an instant his coat was cut through and soon the whole of that side was saturated with blood from the deep wound the najika had inflicted.

The second Cossack's najika caught the face of a woman standing next to the student and gashed it open to the bone. The wound

reached from eye to chin as if it had been cut with a butcher's knife. It was a sickening sight.

To throw yourself upon the ground is of no avail. The Cossack's dexterity in the saddle is almost uncanny. I have seen a couple of them pick up a man from a prone position and carry him off between them whilst riding at full gallop.

The ancient Mexicans when first they saw a Spanish horseman conceived that he was a new sort of being, and could not be convinced that man and horse were separate until they saw the man dismount. If ever there were a centaur it is the Cossack. When on duty he never, under any circumstances, leaves his horse. The beast may fall, may even roll completely over; but while he is doing this the Cossack will stand astride and when he rises he will be firmly fixed in the saddle.

One more incident to illustrate the Cossack's horsemanship. On one occasion I saw a troop of Cossacks galloping at full speed in their customary irregular order down the Nevsky. Suddenly they wheeled to the left, when a horse of one of the Cossacks in the very centre

of the troop slipped on a tram line. I saw the Cossack shot over the beast's head like a stone from a catapult. "A dead man for certain," was my mental comment. The next second the horse had regained its footing and there was the Cossack sitting in the saddle as if nothing had happened. How he had got there I had not the slightest idea. He certainly went over the horse's head. The strangest thing of all perhaps is that the troop never for a moment paused in its headlong career.

The value of such horsemen in dealing with crowds is obvious, and probably the greatest shock of those who had instigated the revolt, which ended in Revolution, was the defection of the Cossacks. Had they remained loyal to the Government the Revolution could never have taken place, for during the first two days, when the mob had got out of hand, a few regiments of Cossacks could have cleared the streets sufficiently to allow the police to restore order. Numbers never matter to the Cossack. He has the heart of a lion, and if a single man were ordered to clear a street where thousands of people were collected, he

would set to work and in all probability achieve his object.

At one time I came a great deal in contact with Cossacks, and splendid fellows I found them, good-natured, cheery, and great gamblers. During these days I learned much of Cossack lore. On one occasion I had pointed out to me a certain man and was told the following story in connection with him:

A Cossack officer, hearing revolutionary songs issuing from a beer-house during a big strike, ordered a Cossack to clear the building. The Cossack dismounted and walked into the beer-house, where he found forty or fifty strikers in a very ugly mood. The Cossack ordered them out. They began to argue, and point-blank declined to go. The Cossack, unperturbed, pointed his carbine at a man and said, "If you do not go out I shall shoot you." The man retained his seat and the Cossack shot him. With great deliberation the Cossack turned his carbine on the next man and said, "If you do not go out I shall shoot you." The man did not move and he also was shot. Before the Cossack had time to turn his weapon on the third man there

was a rush for the door, for the strikers knew that he would have shot every one of them, provided he had sufficient ammunition. Such is the Cossack.

These processions continued until late and in some districts the whole night through. On several occasions during the day the police agitators had endeavoured to induce the mobs to break into the vodka stores, but were unsuccessful, owing to the foresight of Mr. Rodjanko, the President of the Duma, who, knowing that the guards had been removed by the orders of the Government, had caused them to be secretly guarded by armed men dressed as civilians. This precaution on the part of Mr. Rodjanko, who has always had the welfare of the nation at heart, was one of the principal causes of the failure of the devilish plans of the Government. The work-people, who had thought that peaceful demonstrations would have some effect in inducing the Government to recognise their requests, were disappointed at the treatment which they were receiving at the hands of the police. Consequently they decided that their demonstrations should be more for-

cible, which was exactly what the Government required.

Several regiments of soldiers were impressed by the processions of the workpeople. Being in agreement with the Revolutionary Party, they decided to appoint a representative to approach the officers of the regiments. This representative endeavoured to discuss with the officers the question of assisting the people, but was shot by their order. This was the first bloodshed of the Revolution.

On March 10th (February 25th) the crowds which had remained overnight in the streets were very early joined by still larger crowds, and assumed a far more serious aspect. As soon as they formed into processions, they were continually charged by Cossacks and mounted police at full gallop, the latter using the flat of their drawn swords. Unlike the Cossacks, the police when charging made no effort whatsoever to avoid riding down the people.

By the time the usual hour had arrived for business, the general atmosphere throughout the city was extremely grave, and the entire absence of vehicular traffic caused consider-

able inconvenience. It meant that all business people had to walk to their respective offices or places of business. It was noticed on this day that the police in their usual uniforms were conspicuous by their absence, and that still more soldiers were stationed in the various main thoroughfares, and that on the crowns of one or two of the bridges across the numerous canals machine-guns were stationed. These, however, did not deter the crowds from forming into processions with their continual cry of "We want bread."

Later in the day a tremendous crowd collected in the square outside the Nikolai Station, and endeavoured to hold a meeting. Here the Head Police Officer of that particular district ordered them to disperse and then drew his revolver, but before he had time to use it he was shot dead by a Cossack. This was the first real indication that the Cossacks were in any way inclined towards the people, and the news of such a strange happening spread throughout the city in an incredibly short time, giving the people greater confidence. This was the second act of bloodshed in the Revolution.

During the afternoon the crowds still grew and became more menacing and, in this state, were more easily influenced by the Government agents, who began to perform acts of violence by smashing shop-windows and shouting treasonable statements and generally hustling the soldiers. This was the excuse that the police, dressed as soldiers, were waiting for to further the plans of the Government. Directly these acts of violence were committed, the soldiers were ordered to fire on the crowds, but after several volleys had been fired with ball cartridge, the crowds dispersed, leaving a number of dead and wounded in the streets.

This, however, was not sufficient to quell the ardour of the people, but only infuriated them. As the news that the police had commenced shooting into the crowds spread throughout the city, the people assumed a more threatening attitude, although they, to a greater degree, maintained their good humour, still hoping to attain their ends peaceably. This, however, was not permitted by the police agents, for it was obvious that a certain element in the crowd were there for

the sole purpose of creating a further excuse for the police to act violently.

One interesting incident, to prove this, happened in the Nevsky Prospect, where a man, apparently a workman, smashed a large shop window and then shouted to the crowd to break others. He was immediately arrested by some soldiers by the orders of the police officers. The soldiers commenced to handle him very roughly when he produced a card, showed it to the officer, and was immediately released, the card being merely his proof that he was a police agent. In the general excitement of the moment such an act was unnoticed by the crowd, who simply thought it was an act of kindness on the part of the police to releasing the man.*

In every district large crowds formed and marched through the city singing and cheering and, considering the circumstances, showing great good humour. Towards evening several red flags were seen amongst the crowds, obviously produced by the agitators.

* I turned to a soldier standing next to me and asked why the man had been released. "Agent" was his laconic reply.

These flags were immediately pulled down by the people, who shouted, "We are peaceful and don't want trouble." However, the mere appearance of these flags was sufficient excuse for the police again to pour several volleys into the crowd. Such volleys were always fired with the intent to kill, and the bodies of the dead and those badly wounded were left on the streets to be later picked up by their friends.

Directly the trouble started the Government had issued orders to all hospitals and doctors forbidding them to give any attention whatsoever to the wounded, this being simply a further item in the programme to infuriate the people. These processions and crowds continued throughout the evening, but towards midnight gradually thinned, although an enormous number of people remained on the streets all night.

It was now generally admitted among all classes that the situation was becoming grave, for it must be understood that during these last few days practically no food had been obtainable, although in certain districts large queues of people still gathered outside the

Government bread-shops in the hope of obtaining a dole of food. The better classes were hoping that if Sunday, March 11th (February 26th), should pass without bloodshed that things would speedily return to their normal state. This feeling was hardly justified by the continuous reports which came in from the surrounding districts. Conflicts had taken place between the workpeople and the police, the most serious news being that quite a number of police had been killed. This in itself was sufficient to warrant that matters were about to take an extremely grave turn, and that the fighting was by no means over.

Throughout the day Cossacks had been charging the people, but they refrained from using unnecessary violence, and in their turn were cheered by the people. It was this attitude of the Cossacks that gave the crowds a sense of security, and made them instinctively feel that strange events were about to happen. Throughout the nights of terror of the Revolution, perhaps the night of March 10th (February 25th), with its ominous forebodings for the morrow, was the most trying

THE TAIL-END OF A CROWD IN THE NEVSKY PROSPECT

experienced by the inhabitants of Petrograd. The next day would undoubtedly give a definite indication as to the trend events would take.

CHAPTER V

RED MONDAY

SUNDAY, March 11th (February 26th) was the day that was to turn an instigated revolt into a genuine revolution. Large crowds filled the streets of the city, and these were soon greatly reinforced by people from every outlying district. All processions were marching towards the Nevsky Prospect and other main thoroughfares, and soon the wide thoroughfare of the Nevsky Prospect was crowded from the Nikolai Station to the Winter Palace, broken only by the cordons of police across the various bridges.

Quite early in the morning agitators were busy endeavouring to force the crowd to act violently. Owing to the people being now greatly incensed by the killing of the previous day, and the almost entire absence of food,

they lent themselves more easily to the machinations of the police agents. Early in the day the police again fired numerous volleys into the crowds, killing large numbers. In one case they opened fire with a machine-gun. The Cossacks were again out in force, but still refrained from acting with intentional violence, although, owing to the denser crowds, numerous accidents happened and people were ridden down.

One notable incident during a charge was when a Cossack's horse fell amongst the people, but the rider, with the usual equestrian skill of the Cossacks, never left his horse, and upon it regaining its feet he was heartily cheered by the people, although his comrades had already passed through the crowd.* These incidents, although small in themselves, certainly indicated that the Cossacks were by no means in favour of the Government's drastic measures, although on all previous occasions when they had been ordered to quell disturbances, they had executed their commands in the most ruthless and brutal manner.

* I was within a few yards of the spot where this occurred.

Up to this time nothing whatever had been heard or seen of the police with their machine-guns stationed on the roofs of the churches and buildings. The time was not yet ripe—or at least so the Ministers thought—for them to be brought into use for the big slaughter. It is possible that had they been used on this day the Revolution would never have taken place, but would have ended, as all previous revolts had done, in failure.

It must be understood that while these happenings were taking place in the streets, the heads of the Revolutionary Party had not been idle, but had been carefully following the trend of events with a view to putting into operation their own organisation as soon as they could feel sure of a certain number of the soldiers and Cossacks. They had also to determine, from the reports of their own agents among the workpeople, just how far the present happenings would continue before the people lost their self-control and thus complete the plans as laid down by the Government.

For the Revolutionists to show their hand before the time was really ripe would have meant the failure of the work of years, and would have so put back the clock as to make it impossible for them to regain the upper hand before the purpose of the Government had been fulfilled. This would have spelt ruin and slavery for Russia as a nation. They had worked with untiring energy to bring their own organisation into such a state that they could grasp the situation at a moment's notice and use the Government's own plans against itself.

It was on this day that the Tzar, acting no doubt upon the urgent advice of his pro-German Ministers, who were afraid of the great patriot Mr. Rodjanko and his Committee of the Duma, telegraphed to Mr. Rodjanko to dissolve the Duma : the text of the telegram was as follows :—

" In accordance with Statute No. 99 empowering me to dismiss the Duma, I herewith order that the Duma and Imperial Senate be dissolved as from February 26th,

to re-assemble not later than April, 1917, depending on the state of affairs.

"Signed by the hand of His Imperial Majesty the Tzar "NIKOLAI.

"Dated Headquarters March 10th (February 25th), 1917. Undersigned by the President of the Cabinet of the Ministry

"PRINCE NIKOLAI GALITZIN."

Mr. Rodjanko immediately called a special meeting of the Duma Committee and decided to disobey the commands of the Tzar and reply to the orders received as follows :—

"The Committee of the Elders met at the Evening Conference and the orders of the Tzar being made known to them decided that the Imperial Duma do not dissolve. All Deputies will remain at their posts."

After this decision of the Duma, the Revolutionary Party decided that the hour had struck. They held a secret meeting of the leaders at which it was decided that on the Monday they would endeavour to fulfil the great object for which they had been striving for generations, and that the next day would, therefore, decide the fate of Russia.

The rest of the day and night was spent by the Revolutionary leaders in putting the final touches to their plans. One of their first acts was to arrange for their own most reliable agents to mingle freely with the crowds and to instruct the people that, when the time arrived, they were to use every effort to overthrow the Government. At the same time they were to reduce the shedding of blood and damage to property and buildings to an absolute minimum. They also gave the necessary instructions to the various regiments of soldiers of whom they were sure.

While their efforts were bearing fruit, the crowds were still in their thousands in the streets, and further firing had taken place by the police. This had worked the people into an extremely dangerous mood. Towards evening several detachments of soldiers, who were guarding the street bridges, were ordered to fire on the crowds, but refused to do so although the police dressed as soldiers fired on the slightest pretext. The crowds had now lost all fear of the police and were openly carrying red flags and singing revolutionary songs. A particularly large crowd gathered

outside the Kazan Cathedral and made a most imposing sight, formed as they were in a dense mass between the arms of the great colonnade of this beautiful Cathedral.

Several orators, obviously police agents, mounted the plinth of the statues in front of the Cathedral and made fiery speeches calling upon the people to make further and stronger demands for bread, and if refused to take it by force, also telling the crowds that the police had stored away huge quantities of bread and flour. Usually such an orator who attempted to give voice to his opinions would be immediately arrested and shown very little grace by the police, but now it was particularly noticeable that the police refrained from arresting or even attempting to arrest these ringleaders. This in itself was significant. The people showed more inclination to be carried away by these fiery speeches, but, nevertheless, the undercurrent of the Revolutionary control working amongst their ranks prevented them from following the advice of the fiery demonstrators.

These happenings continued until towards midnight when the crowds began to disperse,

THE ARSENAL

although many thousands still remained in the city. There was every indication that the Government's plans were going slightly awry owing to the control the people maintained over themselves. The police were instructed to clear the crowds out of the city as far as possible. During the night they arranged several cordons across the bridges, so as to prevent the people returning in the morning into the city. The idea of this was that, when the crowds endeavoured to return, they would naturally collect in dense masses at the bridge-head and thus place themselves in an ideal position for the police to open fire upon them from the crown of the bridge. Such a point of vantage has always in previous revolts been taken up by the police as it enables them to fire over the heads of the front ranks and into the thick of the crowd, thus being sure of killing the people, but at the same time missing their own agents, who are usually at the head of such demonstrations.

When Red Monday, March 12th (February 27th), dawned it found crowds already collecting at the bridge-heads leading into the city,

but stopped by these cordons of police, who were all fully armed and ready to open fire at a moment's notice. Not only the workmen were stopped but all business men and, no matter what the excuse, permission to enter the city was not granted, although persons wishing to leave it were permitted free passage across the bridges.* By this means the police were able to keep large numbers of people from entering the city. They could not, however, induce the crowds at the bridge-heads to act in any way violently, in fact the people maintained a very serious and decorous demeanour, and all the efforts of the police agents to produce acts of violence were unavailing.

In the city, however, large crowds of residents, and those remaining from the previous night, were formed into processions in the main thoroughfares, as on the previous day. These processions, which were well strengthened by the agents of the Revolutionary Party, made their way by various

* I managed to get through by saying I was an Englishman, and mendaciously adding that I was a war-agent on my way to the British Embassy.

routes to the Small-arms Factory and Arsenal situated near the Litainai Bridge on one of the main thoroughfares leading to the Nevsky Prospect. This building was guarded by a strong force of police and soldiers. The crowd very soon assumed tremendous proportions and surrounded the buildings in a dense mass and, in accordance with the plans of the Revolutionary Committee, became threatening. Thereupon the police immediately opened fire, killing and wounding a large number of people. This so infuriated the mob that they immediately rushed the police and broke through them. The soldiers were then ordered to fire but refused to do so, and joined with the crowd against the police.

Upon the soldiers throwing in their lot with the crowd they shot down their officers and, together with the people, broke into the Arsenal, which they completely looted of its enormous stores of small arms of every description; rifles, revolvers and swords, together with machine-guns and almost unlimited ammunition. The soldiers, who were already armed, provided themselves with additional ammunition and a number formed

themselves into machine-gun detachments. The crowd armed themselves with whatever weapons first came to hand.

During the wrecking of the Arsenal the police continued to fire on the people who, now that they had become possessed of arms, joined the soldiers in returning the fire. Everywhere the police were shot down without mercy. By this time the crowd and soldiers had developed into a disorderly rabble and, worked up to a frenzy of excitement, turned their attention to the prison and adjoining Courts of Justice. The prison they burst open, killing the guards and releasing the inmates who were mostly criminals. This action on the part of the people has since been very much regretted, as it only added a large number of the worst possible characters to the already infuriated mob. Immediately upon the prisoners being released they were supplied with arms by the mob.

Among those freed were a number of men awaiting trial, including several desperate characters. The first act of their new-found freedom was for these men to destroy all incriminating evidence against themselves.

THE REMAINS OF THE COURTS OF JUSTICE

Such evidence they knew was contained in the Records of the Courts of Justice, and they immediately made their way through the crowd to that magnificent and imposing building built in the reign of Catherine II.

The object of these men was to destroy the records, but as this would be a lengthy and tedious task, they decided that the quickest way would be to burn the building itself, or at least the section containing the evidence which they wished to destroy. They had, however, reckoned without the crowd, who, although controlled to a great extent by the Revolutionary agents, were more or less beside themselves with the excitement of the moment. Once the fire had been commenced it was allowed to spread throughout the whole building which, in a very short time, was converted into a blazing furnace. Not content with the mere destruction of the building, they set fire to all the archives containing records of centuries. This act was one of the worst of the whole Revolution, but the people were unaware that they were destroying documents not only of historical value, but of inestimable value to

the nation generally and involving the ruin of many people.

The prison shared the fate of the Courts of Justice which it adjoins, and in a short time was also a mass of flames. Both buildings burnt fiercely for the greater part of the day and night and were completely gutted.

One of the prisons burnt was that behind the Nikolai Station, a place of bad omen for thousands of Russian families. Each Wednesday morning at nine o'clock the gates would open and there would issue forth one of the most tragic processions conceivable. They were the convicts, always political prisoners, bound for Siberia. There were usually from one hundred to one hundred and fifty, men and women, mostly chained together by the wrist in groups.

Some, however, were chained from wrist to ankle, and a few, too ill to walk, rode in springless carts. Surrounded by gendarmes, who in Russia were always mounted, and police, they proceeded to the Nikolai Station to entrain for the point upon the Siberian Railway nearest to the place of their exile. Very seldom was this journey performed without

casualties, due to the hardships experienced. These prisoners carried no luggage, their total possessions being apparently the clothes in which they stood, yet when a gang were halted for a few minutes and after they moved on, the road would be littered with refuse of all descriptions, such as paper, bits of food, and the like. Where it came from I could never make out.

In destroying such prisons, the people had many bitter memories to avenge. The Provisional Government subsequently informed the people that it was their intention to allow the ruins of the old prisons to remain as fitting monuments to the old Government.

When the news spread that the soldiers at the Arsenal had joined the people, every other soldier in the streets at the time, including the Cossacks, went over to the people against the police. Having accounted for all of the police to be found, the mob round the burning buildings divided up into smaller mobs which drifted off to various parts of the city looking for other policemen, whom they shot down without mercy.

These mobs were greatly augmented by the

people and soldiers in the streets and soon formed into dense masses. During their progress they not only shot down the police, but stopped any officers met with, who were asked to give up their arms. If they agreed and handed over their arms they were allowed their freedom, but in cases where they refused they were shot down and their arms taken. Any particularly unpopular officers who were recognised by units of their regiments were shot without question.

The mobs then turned their attention to the police-stations and houses of the various police officers. The police-stations they immediately broke into, killing the men in charge. In cases where resistance was offered, short but brisk fights took place, but the end was the same. Immediately they captured the police-stations they set fire to them, every care being taken that each piece of furniture and every paper and document in the place should be burnt.

In some cases the police-stations were situated in a large block of buildings. Here the mob, not wishing to injure the property of their fellow citizens, cleared out the con-

THE REMAINS OF THE PRISON ADJOINING THE COURTS OF JUSTICE

tents of the police section into the middle of the street, and there made a huge bonfire of them. In a very short time every police-station throughout the city without exception was either in flames or its contents were being burnt.

Certain detachments of the Revolutionaries made their way directly to the various prisons in and around Petrograd, which in every case they broke open, killing the guards and releasing the inmates, whom they armed. Thus the ranks of the mob were very quickly swelled by a host of criminals of the most desperate type, who were ready and willing to commit any act of violence on the slightest provocation.

Nevertheless the mobs, although control was absolutely absent, had sufficient command over themselves to use their influence to prevent whenever possible looting or injury to their fellow citizens, but the police were ruthlessly shot down. One large prison near the Marinskie Theatre was broken open and several hundreds of prisoners released. These were mostly poor wretches who had been confined there since the Russo-Japanese War

for some slight political offences or charges trumped up by the police. No steps had been taken to investigate their cases with a view to releasing them from their living death. Such were the police methods.

When told by their liberators that they were really free and that a Republic was in course of construction, these poor creatures could not realise the great happiness which had come to them. Those who were released from the underground dungeons were blinded when brought into the light, and grovelled on the ground and kissed the feet of their comrades who had liberated them. Such pathetic and heartrending sights were witnessed outside almost every prison.

Amongst the mobs who had made their way to the prisons were many relatives of the hapless inmates, and most pathetic reunions took place. In the majority of cases these political prisoners when released refused to take up arms, as they were only too glad to make the most of their new-found liberty. As each police-station was broken into, the mob took control of the large stores of arms which had been accumulated there. In an

incredibly short time there were tens of thousands of workmen, students, hooligans, and criminals fully armed mingling with the soldiers in the streets.

Directly the Arsenal had been taken, the old regime issued instructions to their units in charge of the machine-guns on the various roofs to open fire on the people. As very few among the crowds were aware upon which buildings such guns were placed a terrible and highly dangerous situation was created. When the police fired from the roofs they fired into the thickest of the mobs, who returned the fire with interest, but doing very little damage save to the buildings, as the majority of those possessing arms knew little about their use.

The situation of those in the various flats in these particular buildings became very dangerous, and in many cases the occupants were shot through their windows quite by accident. On the other hand, the police on the roofs took care to shoot, with deliberate intention to kill, at those who showed themselves at the windows of the houses opposite. As the ammunition used by the police was

charged with smokeless powder and these events happened in the daytime, none could tell where the police were, and thus no part of the city was safe.

Knowing that the religious views of the Russians would to a great extent prevent them firing at churches, the Government had with diabolical intent caused the majority of the machine-guns to be placed in the belfries. It was some time before the people realised where the fire was coming from, and even when they did they were very loath to return it, as they thought to hit so sacred a building would be an act of sacrilege. Nevertheless the machine-guns had to be silenced. In most cases this was done by a patrol of soldiers and people entering the churches, which they did with a respect that was almost awe. They then made their way to the belfries, where some fierce and deadly encounters took place.

Owing to the bitter nature of the fighting and the enormous expenditure of ammunition, the casualties soon mounted up to hundreds killed and wounded. The people had now practically taken command of affairs. The old

order of the Government to hospitals and doctors not to attend the wounded was ignored, and very soon the majority of the hospitals were full of wounded, who received every possible care. The doctors throughout the city proceeded to attend to the injuries of the people, acting with the greatest heroism and self-sacrifice.

CHAPTER VI

HOURS OF CRISIS

ALTHOUGH the events that were happening take a considerable time to describe, they followed each other with almost bewildering rapidity. Whilst the various mobs were wreaking their vengeance upon the police-stations and hunting down the police, many regiments of soldiers had gone over bodily to the popular side. Before doing so they had taken the precaution of disarming their officers, the more unpopular ones being shot.

With uncontrolled mobs wandering about, cases of looting were inevitable, more especially by the lower orders, who broke into gun-stores and looted their contents. In a number of cases they broke into chemists' shops from which they took all forms of spirit, which they drank, and soon mingling with the

crowds was a considerable number of drunken or maddened units.

In a short time the whole of the city was aglow with the glare from the burning buildings which, in addition to the heavy firing, made the situation appear far worse than it actually was, and had the effect of clearing the streets of the more serious-minded and nervous citizens. The mobs presented a strange, almost grotesque appearance. Soldiers, workmen, students, hooligans and freed criminals wandered aimlessly about in detached companies, all armed, but with a strange variety of weapons. Here would be a hooligan with an officer's sword fastened over his overcoat, a rifle in one hand and a revolver in the other ; there a small boy with a large butcher's knife on his shoulder. Close by a workman would be seen awkwardly holding an officer's sword in one hand and a bayonet in the other. One man had two revolvers, another a rifle in one hand and a tram-line cleaner in the other. A student with two rifles and a belt of machine-gun bullets round his waist was walking beside another with a bayonet tied to the end of a

stick. A drunken soldier had only the barrel of a rifle remaining, the stock having been broken off in forcing an entry into some shop. A steady, quiet-looking business man grasped a large rifle and a formidable belt of cartridges.*

Singing, shouting, roaring, firing off their weapons into the air regardless of whom the bullets might hit, these mobs would wander along without leaders, apparently without purpose. Suddenly machine-guns served by the police would begin to rattle and spit their leaden venom from adjoining roofs. There would be a momentary hush, followed by the cries of the wounded and a general scurry for cover. As the streets cleared, little heaps, some very still, others writhing in agony, told of the toll of the machine-guns. From the doubtful protection of doorways and arches the mob would send a spatter of bullets in the direction from which it was thought the leaden hail came. Then a few of the braver spirits would form themselves into a patrol and force their way to the roofs of the buildings and hunt out the police at their guns.

* I detail only what I saw about me.

This was not so dangerous a proceeding as it might appear, as owing to their cramped positions the police could not put up a very serious hand-to-hand fight. In many cases the police were simply thrown over the parapets into the roadway below. In cases where policemen were wounded, no medical assistance was allowed them, but they were dispatched out of hand. The people of Petrograd had much to avenge.

Although it was not yet noon, the whole city and surrounding districts were by now in the hands of the mob. The police guarding the various bridges, as yet unaware that the mob had assumed supreme control of the situation, were surprised at their posts and, after short but brisk fights, were accounted for. Directly the numerous police agents, who had been mingling with the crowds, realised that events had taken a turn contrary to their expectations, they decamped, but in cases where they were recognised they were shot down.

Some of the mobs, led by criminals or hooligans, attempted to break into the vodka stores, but thanks to Mr. Rodjanko they were

prevented from doing so. Without using violence the Revolutionary guards simply explained the situation, pointing out that if the crowds availed themselves of the large stores of vodka they would be cutting their own throats and furthering the interests of the old regime. The crowds, who had amongst them many of the Revolutionary agents, were quickly convinced on this point and left the vodka stores in peace, which was a good illustration of the wonderful control which the people kept over themselves.

In cases where large stores of vodka had been found in police-stations, the crowd invariably broke the bottles and poured their contents into the canals. Some of the worst characters among them drank large quantities of the fiery spirit and were soon incapable of taking further part in the proceedings. There were instances even of such men being shot down by the people themselves.

When policemen were shot their weapons were taken, and this added further to the number of armed people in the streets. The remaining policemen, prepared for the slaugh-

ter usual on such occasions but never for a moment anticipating that the soldiers (and more especially that the Cossacks) would side against them, took refuge when possible with their comrades on the roofs of the buildings and churches. Owing to the fact that practically all the large buildings throughout the city have flat roofs, the police were able to collect together and even change their positions. Nevertheless the organised patrols of the people were more than a match for them.

At this time the crowds commenced to commandeer every automobile in the city, no matter to whom it might belong. These automobiles they filled with armed men, with at least two soldiers lying on the mudguards with loaded rifles and fixed bayonets. These formidable units then rushed all over the city shooting wildly, but with the chief object of hunting down the police, especially those in the outlying districts who had not yet become aware of the true state of affairs in the city itself, but who, having heard the intense firing, believed that their programme was being carried out. It was

by this means that the remainder of the police were accounted for.

It was a terrifying sight to see a private limousine tearing down the road filled with armed men and a machine-gun mounted on its roof. The gun was of very little use, as it was with the greatest difficulty that the men themselves could keep in position, let alone the gun, which wobbled about perilously. Upon the motor lorries machine-guns were mounted in such a way as to command the front edge of the house roofs from the roadway. When those in charge were certain of a particular building from which the police were firing, the lorry would draw up and return the fire.

With such indiscriminate shooting the casualties were extremely heavy. They would have been much more so had the police arranged their machine-guns on a level with the roadway instead of on the roofs of the buildings. Situated as they were the machine-guns could only command a narrow strip of road, whereas on the ground level they could have commanded a whole street.

The Head Office of the Secret Police was

ONE OF THE REQUISITIONED CARS
Note the two soldiers with fixed bayonets lying along the mudguards

situated in a large block of buildings on the Fontanka Canal, where was also situated the flat of the Minister of Interior. The mob broke in and, to avoid destroying the property of their fellow citizens, brought out every article of furniture from the Minister's flat and the Secret Service Offices, together with every document, book and scrap of paper they could find. These were made into huge bonfires in the streets. Thus in a few moments were destroyed thousands of documents containing details and general particulars of every criminal and political and religious suspect throughout the Empire, to say nothing of the vast volumes of information relating to enemy spies.

That the incriminating evidence relating to the political and religious prisoners and suspects should be burnt was entirely just, but it was certainly deplorable that documents containing particulars of criminals and spies were destroyed. By the destruction of these documents all evidence of such characters was lost, and the duties of the militia, which was formed later, were rendered more difficult in rounding up such prisoners. The

only evidence upon which they could go was that voluntarily given by persons knowing these men.

By this time the old regime had begun to realise that their power was disappearing, if it had not already disappeared. They still pinned their faith, however, on the soldiers who were stationed outside the city. Directly hostilities had commenced the Government had telegraphed to Finland for several regiments of soldiers to be brought in immediately to clear the streets. Fortunately the Revolutionary Party had knowledge of these instructions, and their agents immediately set about to organise a suitable reception. This they did by commandeering several field-guns, which they placed behind hastily constructed barricades in Litainai Prospect, commanding the bridge by which such troops would have to enter the city. These field-guns they reinforced by a number of machine-guns trained on the brow of the bridge. Thus equipped they awaited the arrival of the new troops.

In due course these troops, who were ignorant of the real situation, arrived. Upon

reaching the bridge the new arrivals were informed of what had occurred, the guns mounted in position being convincing proof. Without hesitation they decided to throw in their lot with the people, and upon doing so they disarmed their officers, taking the opportunity to shoot the more unpopular ones. They then joined the mobs in the city.

Throughout the day red flags and pieces of red rag were everywhere evident, and hardly a soul was to be seen in the streets without some such decoration. It was, as a matter of fact, highly dangerous to be among the crowds without such evidence of one's sympathies.* It was quite sufficient for any person in the crowd who happened to notice the absence of this emblem to shout out, "Policeman, spy, shoot him." Without being given time to produce any papers or documents to prove his identity and that his sympathies were with the people, the suspect

* As I describe later, personally I took the precaution of wearing a small Union Jack in my button-hole. In spite of this, I was repeatedly challenged by someone in the mob, whereupon I uttered the magic word "Englishman," showed my flag, and all was well.

was shot. Such instances were extremely rare considering the general state of affairs, but nevertheless they happened.

The majority of those who had remained round the burning Courts of Justice and the adjoining prison, when they saw that the fire had really got a firm hold and there was no possibility of the buildings being saved, made their way to the Duma House, which was guarded by gendarmes. Now, however, the mob were well armed and in a fighting humour and had been reinforced by the soldiers. A brisk but short fight ensued, for the gendarmes soon realised that they were being overwhelmed and surrendered the building. This happened early on the Monday morning, March 12th (February 27).

With the mob that took the Duma House were a large number of the Revolutionary leaders, who, directly the building was captured, took charge of affairs and commenced their work of organisation. They took possession of Room No. 13 of the Duma building and held a meeting to discuss their plans. It must be understood that these men were not of the working classes, but were

GUNS BEHIND BARRICADE COMMANDING THE LITAINAI PROSPECT AND BRIDGEHEAD

the real heads of the Revolutionary Movement. They it was who decided on the Sunday night that the Revolution was to take place, and that they would risk all upon the success of the movement.

At the time that the Duma building was taken, Mr. Rodjanko, the President, was holding a meeting to decide the Duma's attitude. They had disregarded the instructions of the Tzar to dissolve the Duma, and the decision at which they now arrived was to remain at their posts and use every possible effort to further the interest of the nation.

On the previous night (Sunday) Mr. Rodjanko had realised the course events were taking and, together with his colleagues, had forwarded the following telegram to the Tzar at Headquarters :—

" Position very serious. Anarchy rife in the Capital, Parliament is paralysed, transport of provisions is entirely disorganised. In the streets disorderly firing is taking place, units of the Army are fighting others. It is necessary to appoint someone immediately whom the country trusts to form another

Ministry. Do not delay. This would be fatal. I pray to God that the responsibility of this day will not fall upon him who wears the Crown."

At the same time Mr. Rodjanko and his colleagues sent a copy of this telegram to the Commanders of the Southern, Middle and Northern Armies, and requested them to impress on the Tzar the urgency of the situation as explained in the telegram.

The first reply was received from General Brussilof, who answered: "Your telegram to hand. Have fulfilled my duty to the Tzar and country." Later a reply from General Russki was received reading: "Telegram received. Requests fulfilled."

On the morning of Monday, March 12th (February 27th), Mr. Rodjanko addressed a second telegram to the Tzar as follows:—

"Situation has become worse, necessary to take immediate steps. To-morrow will be too late. The final moment has arrived when the fate of the country and the dynasty will be decided."

CHAPTER VII

THE REIGN OF THE MOB

LARGE numbers of the people and soldiers were still occupied in setting fire to the various police-stations. The remainder continued to hunt down the police throughout the city and on the outskirts, where some brisk and deadly fighting took place. Later in the day a large mob broke into the big Military Garage and commandeered all the cars, including a number of armoured cars. These they loaded up with a considerable stock of ammunition and used them in the general street fighting. These armoured cars were largely responsible for the speedy way in which the police with their machine-guns were rounded up, as from the cars they were able to concentrate their fire on any particular point without suffering injury themselves.

Towards evening a large number of people, who had remained in their houses during the day, joined with the crowd in the streets. This fact was largely responsible for the enormous number of casualties. Machine-guns spitting lead in all directions and thousands of persons were firing indiscriminately. It was all a matter of luck whether one escaped or no.* In addition to the actual fighting between the people and the police, numbers of young and irresponsible boys and hooligans found huge delight in firing off their weapons into the air or at windows, in fact anywhere that suited their fancy. Again, there was great danger from the happily few drunken soldiers and hooligans. These took a keen delight in showing small groups of people, especially women and girls, how to load and fire a rifle. This they would do by placing a cartridge in the breech and then pulling the trigger, quite regardless as to where the bullet might go.

In a few hours the value of human life had

* I myself had many narrow escapes, as I invariably found myself in the thick of the mob. It was safer, however, than being in my office with bullets coming through the windows.

dropped with startling suddenness. By carelessness in handling weapons quite a number of people were killed and injured. Little boys also delighted in picking up dropped cartridges and throwing them into the fires which were burning outside the police-stations and also the usual fires in the streets: this they did quite innocently, but it was a serious source of danger.

During very cold weather it is the practice in Russian cities to have large fires in braziers at various points to give the people, more especially the poorer classes and cabmen, an opportunity of warming themselves. To be out for many hours at a stretch in such an extremely low temperature, one is apt to become numbed with the cold and attacked by frostbite, which never gives any indication of its presence except that the part attacked usually feels comfortably warm.

During the Revolution these fires were numerous throughout the streets, the dvornicks seeing the necessity of such fires to warm their comrades in the streets. It was in these fires that the younger element delighted to throw loose cartridges they had picked up.

In many cases these children became possessed of fire-arms and, in imitation of their elders, they delighted to fire them off.

One little boy of about twelve years of age had secured an automatic pistol and, together with a large number of soldiers, was warming himself at one of these fires. Suddenly he pulled the trigger and one of the soldiers fell dead. This so alarmed the boy, who had no idea of the mechanism of the deadly weapon he held, that he kept the trigger pulled back and the automatic pistol proceeded to empty itself. It contained seven bullets, and it was not until they were all discharged that the boy released his hold of the trigger. The result was that three soldiers were killed and four seriously injured. This wholesale destruction was probably an isolated case, but hundreds of people were injured by the careless use of weapons in unaccustomed hands. Quite a number of children shot themselves whilst playing with fire-arms.

In the evening and throughout the night it was a weird and wonderful sight to see the rabble in the streets waving red flags and singing revolutionary songs, while the sky

was aglow from the burning buildings. One particular fire was extremely picturesque, that of the large police and fire station situated near the Nikolai Station. All fire-stations throughout Russia are built with a very tall look-out tower usually surmounted by a very high mast. It is the practice that when there is a fire in the city, the look-out man on the tower hoists to the top of the mast signals to indicate to the look-out men on other towers the district in which the fire is burning.

This particular station, combining both the police and fire-brigade stations, consisted of four floors above which was built this high tower, the whole reaching to a height of about 150 feet. This was one of the first stations that the mob fired, and when the flames secured a good hold on the building, the tower acted as a chimney and produced a most weird and terrifying picture silhouetted as it was against the night sky.

Not content with the destruction of the police-stations and their contents, the crowd, who now began to realise their own strength, decided that all documents relating in any

way whatsoever to the old regime and police organisation must be destroyed. This led them to private flats and the residences of local judges, which were stripped of every scrap of paper, books, documents, etc. These were burnt in the streets outside the houses. They did not forget the local Courts in this respect, but they have since had cause to regret such actions as the documents and records contained in the local Courts were invariably details and evidence relating to small cases affecting the working classes. Thus in many cases evidence was destroyed which was really to their own advantage.

The overthrow of the police and the burning of all records was the death-knell of the old regime, and was at the same time the peal of victory of the Revolution. With the burning of the police-stations many thousands of passports were destroyed, and thus at one stroke that wonderful passport system of Russia was eliminated, and it is very doubtful whether it will ever be reinstated by the new Government. It is hardly likely that the people, now that they are free of that badge of serfdom, will agree to have its chains again

SOLDIERS WITH RED FLAGS LEADING AN IMMENSE CROWD IN THE NEVSKY PROSPECT
They are all singing the *Marseillaise*. The building in the background is the Palace of the Dowager Empress

fettering their lives. As it was difficult to prove what passports had been destroyed, it was quite natural that people who had a bad record to show on their passports soon destroyed them, and as no records remain they can continue life with a clean sheet. Even if the new regime continues the passport system, at least every person will have the benefit of beginning again with an unspotted record.

When it is said that the passport system is now at an end, that is only in connection with those remaining in the country. For those wishing to leave or enter Russia, passports must still be produced and viséd in the usual way by the authorities, who if anything are more strict than previously. Such action is necessary to prevent spies and other enemy agents taking advantage of the chaos of the moment.

Throughout these terrible times foreigners were treated with the greatest respect, both as regards their persons and their property; the only act against them being the commandeering of their motor-cars, and even here in some cases such cars were not taken.

Where the police were firing from the

windows of houses the mob organised patrols to search every flat in the house. In one case the offices of an English firm were searched five times within the short period of two hours. A patrol of five or six soldiers and workmen, all fully armed, demanded admittance, and upon it being accorded they would command the inmates to hold up their hands whilst they were thoroughly searched for fire-arms.

In this particular office the Revolutionaries demanded that the safe should be opened, and although there were no fire-arms there was a considerable amount of money. One of the men attempted to take it, but was immediately ordered by the other members of the patrol to replace it, with the remark that they were not thieves and that this was an English office and must be respected as such.* This was a good indication of the feelings of the mobs towards the Allies, for it must be clearly understood that this was a revolution against the old regime and, therefore, favourable to the Allied cause.

* The appearance of the men as they stood there was that of officials performing an odious duty. I was greatly impressed with their restraint and coolness.

From time to time throughout the day, members of the workmen's delegates and the Revolutionary Council drove about the streets in motor-cars and gave the people by word of mouth some particulars of the happenings at the Headquarters of the Organisation. Such information was received with tremendous cheering, especially when the arrests of the various Ministers of the old regime were announced.

In the evening a special unnumbered and hastily printed News-sheet was issued by the combined Councils of the Duma and the Revolutionary Party. Distribution of this News-sheet was made by fast motor-cars, handfuls of the sheets being thrown to the people who scrambled for them in the most boisterous manner.* Immediately a person obtained possession of one, he was surrounded by a crowd asking for all the News to be read out. It was a most interesting sight to see amongst the general mob hundreds of such groups who considered the contents of the

* I was successful in snatching one which I immediately put in my pocket. It is reproduced here. A few days after fifty pounds was vainly offered for one of these News-sheets.

paper more important than their own personal safety. As the various news was given them it was received with wild acclamation.

The heading to this historical News-sheet was as follows :—

NEWS

27th February, 1917.

Newspapers not being published.

EVENTS FOLLOWING ONE ANOTHER TOO RAPIDLY.

THE PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING.

Although a great turmoil was raging, and every man was striving his utmost in the interests of the nation, the Allies were not forgotten, for the first News-sheet contained a small paragraph reading :

"ON THE ALLIED FRONT

"A telegram has been received from a special correspondent giving the splendid news that the British Army had occupied BAGDAD."

On this day, March 12th (February 27th), a number of regiments of soldiers came over

„ИЗВѢСТІЯ"

27-го февраля 1917 г.

Газеты не выходятъ.

Событія идутъ слишкомъ быстро.

Населеніе должно знать, что происходитъ.

Временный комитетъ для поддержанія порядка.

Въ составъ временнаго комитета вошли:

1. М. В. Родзянко.
2. А. В. Некрасовъ.
3. М. А. Дмитріевскій.
4. В. А. Ржевскій.
5. А. Ф. Керенскій.
6. И. С. Чхеидзе.
7. В. В. Шульгинъ.
8. С. И. Шидловскій.
9. П. Н. Милюковъ.
10. М. К. Караулов.
11. И. Н. Ефремовъ.
12. А. И. Коноваловъ.

Роспускъ Гос. Думы.

Рѣшеніе Гос. Думы.

Восстаніе войскъ.

Первая телеграмма М. В. Родзянко Царю.

Телеграммы М. В. Родзянко командующимъ фронтами.

Отвѣтныя телеграммы Брусилова и Рузскаго.

Вторая телеграмма предсѣдателя Гос. Думы Царю.

Декларація революціонныхъ войскъ въ Гос. Думѣ.

Революціонизированіе въ Гос. Думѣ.

Засѣданіе Гос. Думы.

Арестъ предсѣдателя Гос. Совѣта.

Взятіе арсенала и главнаго артиллерійскаго управленія.

Взятіе „Крестовъ" и освобожденіе политическихъ.

Паденіе Петропавловской крѣпости.

Разгромъ охраннаго отдѣленія.

Отставка пр. Горемыкина.

Совѣтъ рабочихъ депутатовъ.

Воззваніе совѣта рабочихъ депутатовъ.

Комитетъ Петроградскихъ журналистовъ.

Отъ штаба Верховнаго Главнокомандующаго.

ЗАПАДНЫЙ ФРОНТЪ.

Румынскій фронтъ.

Кавказскій фронтъ.

Дѣятели печати.

На фронтѣ спокойно.

THE FIRST NEWS-SHEET

This was issued on Red Monday by the Provisional Government as there were no newspapers

in a body to the side of the Revolutionists. The first was the Volinski Regiment, which was followed by the Probrajenski, Litofski, and Sapernie Regiments, in all about 25,000 men. These soldiers when they threw in their lot with the people immediately selected delegates to represent them in the Council of Organisation, and a special deputation chosen by these men called about one o'clock p.m. at the Duma House and requested a statement of the views of the People's representatives. By this time the Revolutionary Committee was working hand-in-hand with the Committee of the Duma, presided over by Mr. Rodjanko, and in answer to the request of the new soldiers' delegates, Mr. Rodjanko made the following statements :—

"The most important question at the moment is the complete overthrow of the old regime and the establishment of the new. In order to accomplish this the Duma will do everything in its power to fulfil the people's wishes, and it is unconditionally necessary that order and quiet be maintained."

At the same time the President of the

Duma acquainted the delegates with the text of the telegrams sent to the Tzar at Headquarters, and also those sent to the Commanders at the fronts.

At about 2 p.m. a very strong section of the Revolutionary Army, accompanied by a large armed crowd, made their way to the Imperial Duma. They were accompanied by many members of the Duma, among whom were Chkendce, Karensky and Skobeleff, who were received with great cheers by the people and soldiers. These three members of the Duma delivered speeches to the crowd and urged them to select a special guard from the soldiers to protect the Duma building. This task the soldiers readily took upon themselves in perfect order, and in addition placed their own operators in charge of the telephone and postal departments of the Duma.

At 2.30 p.m. in the semicircular hall of the Duma, under the presidency of Mr. Rodjanko, a special meeting of the members of the Duma took place to consider the all-important question of appointing a Provisional Committee to secure order in Petrograd, to acquaint various cities and towns throughout the Empire with

their decision, and to discuss with various departments and officials the steps necessary to achieve this end. In view of the large number attending the meeting, the choice of the Provisional Committee was left in the hands of the Advisory Committee of the Duma. At the close of the meeting this Advisory Committee adjourned to Mr. Rodjanko's office and the choice was made by the Elders of the Duma, their decisions being immediately published.

One of the first actions of the Revolutionary Committee, in conjunction with that of the Duma, was to arrange for the arrest of the various Ministers and High Officials of the old regime. Such arrests were carried out with extraordinary rapidity and secrecy, in fact quite a number of the old Ministers were arrested before they were aware that their own power had for ever disappeared. Practically the first arrest to take place was that of Mr. Stchglovetof, the President of the Imperial Council, late Minister of Justice. He was brought under a strong guard of Revolutionists to the Duma building where, after a short discussion, the Provisional Committee placed

him in the members' pavilion of the Tavrchesky Palace under a close watch.

During the taking of the Arsenal in the earlier part of the day, General Matusof, Director of the Arsenal, was killed. Although the crowd had completely looted the Arsenal of its stores, they had taken care not to damage any of the machinery or plant in the small-arms section.

The well-known fortress of St. Peter and St. Paul, situated on the banks of the Neva opposite the Winter Palace, was the last of the strongholds of the police to fall. Upon it being taken possession of by the Revolutionary Army, all political prisoners were set free. In many cases the happy inmates had to be carried out into the light of day, as the brutal treatment which they had received for many years had practically reduced them to mere wrecks of humanity. The fortress itself was made the headquarters of the Revolutionary Army. A special article in the News-sheet informed the people officially that all records at the headquarters of the Police Intelligence Departments had been destroyed, together with the old archives and documents

referring to political and religious prisoners and suspects.

About 1 p.m. the President of the Cabinet of the Ministry of the old regime, Prince Galitzin, telephoned his resignation to the President of the Duma. At this time it was reported that all other members of the Ministry, with the exception of Protropopoff, had tendered their resignations. During the day the Revolutionaries despatched patrols to search the flats of all the members of the Cabinet. This they did very thoroughly, but had not the pleasure of finding a single Minister at home.

The flat of Count Fredericks* was completely stripped of every article of furniture, which was taken into the streets and made into a huge bonfire. The Countess was also placed under arrest but was not otherwise molested. Count Fredericks himself and all the other Ministers were hunted for, but happily for them not found.

One of the most dramatic incidents of the

* Count Fredericks, the Head of the Imperial Household, is of German origin, and for many years Russians have regarded it as a slight that a German should occupy so high a post.

Revolution was the arrest of Protropopoff, the ex-Minister of the Interior, for whom the mobs had been hunting with an earnestness that boded ill for him if caught. The leaders of the Revolution were enquiring of each other in vain, "Where is Protropopoff?" He seemed to have disappeared into thin air. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday passed without news of him. Was he in hiding? Had he escaped from Petrograd? Had he committed suicide? Nobody knew.

On the night of Wednesday, March 14th (March 1st), a student standing outside the Taverchesky Palace was approached by a man in a big fur overcoat.

"Are you a student?"

"Yes," was the reply.

"Please take me to the Executive Committee of the Duma," said the man, "I am the ex-Minister of the Interior." It was Protropopoff himself.

"I wish every possible prosperity to our country," continued Protropopoff, "and on that account I came willingly."

The student called to a party of soldiers and informed them of the identity of his

companion. The soldiers grouped themselves round Protropopoff and moved off in the direction of the Taverchesky Palace. The prisoner was recognised by the crowds, who gave utterance to their loathing and hatred. These cries were redoubled in force when they noticed the tears pouring down Protropopoff's face. The soldiers protected him from the crowds and finally delivered him, pale and trembling, to a member of the Executive Committee. Seeing who it was, the member called for a strong guard, and more soldiers with fixed bayonets marched the prisoner to the Ministers' Pavilion. In a few minutes Citizen Karensky, one of the new Ministers, arrived. Protropopoff immediately rose and, approaching Karensky, exclaimed:

"Your Excellency, I am giving myself into your hands."

"Ex-Minister Protropopoff," replied Karensky, "in the name of the Executive Committee, I declare you arrested."

Protropopoff bent towards Karensky and proceeded to whisper something.

"Officer of the guard," exclaimed Karensky, "the ex-Minister of the Interior wishes to

make a secret communication. Please take Protropopoff into a separate room." This was done, and a conference took place between the two men, the nature of which has not yet transpired.*

It was an irony of fate that delivered Protropopoff into Karensky's hands, for upon Protropopoff's papers and other effects being searched, evidence was found to the effect that he intended, after a successful conclusion of the revolt, to prosecute Karensky for high treason, his charge being based upon certain statements made by Karensky at one of the meetings of the Duma Delegates prior to the Revolution.

Protropopoff now awaits his trial together with the other ex-Ministers.

An hour previously another ex-Minister, General Soukomlinoff (ex-Minister of War), had been taken into the Duma under a strong guard of soldiers. News of his arrival spread quickly over the whole building, causing great excitement among the soldiers. The ex-Minister of War was taken into a waiting-room still under strong guard. It

* At least not at the time I left Petrograd.

was obvious that the soldiers were scarcely able to conceal their hatred and disgust. One man, a delegate from the Probrajenski Regiment, suddenly entered the room, saw who the prisoner was, strode over to him and, in the presence of all, tore the epaulettes from Soukomlinoff's shoulders.

Although the original delegates of the people were practically all of the old Revolutionary Party, throughout the day their numbers were increased by special deputies chosen by the workpeople, soldiers and other groups, and continual conferences were in progress. These delegates arranged deputations from the workmen in order to hold meetings, explain the situation to the people, and enable them to appoint still further delegates that there might be no question that every class would be fairly represented. From Headquarters the following declaration was made by special leaflets issued to the people from

"CITIZENS, representatives of the workmen, soldiers and people of Petrograd who have met at the Duma, inform you that the

first meeting of the chosen representatives will be held at the Duma at 7 o'clock this evening. All those who have gone over to the side of the people should choose their representative at once, one deputy from each regiment, the factories must choose one deputy from every 1000 workpeople, and works having less than 1000 workpeople are to choose one deputy."

The above declaration was signed by the Provisional Executive Committee of the people's representatives. A further declaration was made as follows :—

"Citizens and soldiers who are on the side of the people have been fighting in the streets since early morning on your behalf. The representatives of the workmen, soldiers and people, therefore, suggest that something be done to feed these soldiers, but to establish an organisation on the spur of the moment is difficult. The Committee, therefore, ask you citizens to feed the soldiers in any way in your power and with any foods which you can give."

This appeal to the people, which was also signed by the Provisional Committee, met

with instantaneous results, and everywhere soldiers were invited into flats to warm themselves and be fed. Restaurants immediately opened their doors and posted large placards outside, inviting soldiers to come in and partake of free meals. A very common sight was to see benevolent old gentlemen in the streets with large boxes of cigarettes, which they handed out to the soldiers.

Although appreciating the kindness and well-meant intentions of these gifts, the men derived very little satisfaction from smoking them, for the soldiers and peasants of Russia smoke an exceptionally strong weed known as Mahorka, which has a vile taste and a still viler smell, and would burn the throat and turn the stomach of most smokers.

When making a cigarette they usually take a small piece of newspaper and roll it into a long thin funnel. This they fill with this noxious weed, bite off the thin end of the funnel and then proceed to light up. The atmosphere in a room in which several such cigarettes are being smoked soon becomes unbearable to the ordinary person, but does not seem to have the slightest effect on the

smokers. In Russia a "third-class smoker" is the most effective emetic I know.

While the Revolutionary Committee was working at terrific pressure to bring its own organisation into effective action, the general street fighting was still in progress, although the number of police was being reduced hourly as the mobs ran them to earth. Those on the roofs of the churches and buildings, however, were still ignorant of the general trend of affairs. They were without means of communicating with their comrades, but they must have seen that all was not well. Looking down into the streets from their positions behind their guns they could see soldiers and Cossacks mingling with the crowds and firing up at them.

During previous revolts in Russia the people in isolated cases have sometimes momentarily got control, and it was no doubt such a thought which buoyed up the hopes of the police that reinforcements of loyal troops would soon be drafted into the city to restore order. It is beyond question that had only a few regiments of troops loyal to the old regime been available they could, with

very little difficulty, have cleared the city of its leaderless mobs. It was this lack of the necessary few loyal regiments to aid the police that sealed the fate of the old regime.

It is quite possible that the Government could have found at least one or two regiments who would still have thrown in their lot with them had it not been for the fact that, during the earlier stages of the trouble, the authorities had ordered a number of police to dress in the uniforms of the soldiers of well-known regiments. The sinister object of this was to show the people that the soldiers, who had always stood by the Government, were still on their side. By this deception the then Ministers showed that they were fully aware that the loyalty of the soldiers was doubtful. It was this supreme mistake which ensured the success of the Revolution. When those regiments whose uniforms had been so misused learned that the police had been disguised as units of their battalion, they were indignant, and without more ado threw in their lot with the people.

Throughout the day many officers had been shot while others had been arrested and dis-

armed and confined in the Duma building, in accordance with instructions from the Revolutionary Committee. Such arrested officers were, in some cases, allowed to take with them a small bundle of necessaries, others were not even permitted this. For all men holding officers' rank this was a day of terror. Those who had treated their men harshly paid for it with their lives. Such treatment seems drastic, yet knowing a great number of such officers personally, and being intimate with their cruel methods of enforcing their orders, I had to confess to myself that they had received only their just deserts.

Thousands of soldiers were to be seen wandering aimlessly about. Military discipline had quite disappeared, every soldier was now his own master. This constituted a serious problem for the Revolutionary Committee, but they were powerless. The soldiers had been accustomed to obey the word of command. They now found themselves without officers, without restraint, and with nothing to do but wander about hunting for policemen. The most amazing thing is that a veritable orgy of murder and terrorism did

not ensue, and it is a lasting credit to the Russian character that well-dressed people moved freely about without molestation.

It was the soldiers who had fought for and won the Revolution, for without their aid the Revolutionary Party, weakened as they were by so many of their most reliable units being in the trenches, could never have carried through the Revolution to victory.

Strange as it may seem, this terrible yet wonderful Revolution was more or less an accident. The Revolutionary Party, although working for so many years to complete its programme, was not yet in a position to feel confident of success. It is a great testimony to the efficacy of its organisation that the leaders were able, the moment the opportunity offered, to grasp the situation, act with courage and inspiration and, at such short notice, convince the people that this was the hour in which to fulfil the destiny of Russia as a free nation.

Now that the Revolution was accomplished, the two great problems for the leaders were, firstly, how to get the soldiers back to discipline; secondly, how to disarm the hooligans

and criminals and restore order in the city. The Committee were fully aware that as long as mob rule reigned their plans were in jeopardy. These points were given the most serious consideration at Headquarters, and at midnight on Monday the following declaration was issued to the people in a special leaflet and distributed throughout the city:—

"The Provisional Committee of the Imperial Duma request the inhabitants of Petrograd, in the common interests of all, not to damage any particular Government property such as installations, telegraph, waterworks, lighting and power stations, tramways and parliamentary palaces and departments. In like manner the Imperial Duma suggest the protection by the citizens of Works and Factories where the work for the War or for the general good is being carried on. Do not forget that damage to or destruction of the departments or property benefits no one and brings only great harm to the country. All the people and further everyone requires light, water and other services. You are further requested not to

GROUP OF ARRESTED OFFICERS
Note the red ribbons on the left breasts of some of the soldiers

jeopardise the life or health or at the same time damage the property of private persons. The shedding of blood or destruction to the country will be a blot to the conscience of the guilty ones, but not only this, would tend to impoverish the whole population of the capital.

" Signed by the President of the Duma,
MICHAEL RODJANKO."

At the same time a second proclamation was issued as follows :—

" The Provisional Committee of the members of the Imperial Duma under the difficult conditions and disorder which are due to the acts of the old government, find it incumbent on them to restore order in the governmental and public services. The committee realising the great importance and responsibility of the undertaking hope for the assistance of the people and the army so that they may be enabled to make such arrangements as will meet with their wishes and to retain the confidence of the people as a whole.

" Signed President of the Imperial Duma,
" MICHAEL RODJANKO."

Throughout that night the city was aglow from the reflection of the burning buildings. Crowds passed restlessly through the streets to the accompaniment of the shouts of men and the crack of rifles, with an occasional splutter of a machine-gun

Thus ended one of the most historical and probably the most memorable day for the Russian people. To quote a remark heard, "The slowest people on earth had done the quickest thing in history."

CHAPTER VIII

THE DAWN OF THE NEW ERA

WITH Tuesday, March 13th (February 28th), dawned a new era for the Russian nation. Although fighting between the people and the police had continued throughout the night, and the dawn shed its light upon streets still crowded with armed mobs, the general atmosphere seemed less strained and the people had entirely regained their good-humour.

Many armoured cars, private cars, and large motor lorries bristling with armed men, continued to career through the streets, and machine-guns from the roofs still poured down their deluge of lead. These machine-guns, however, had been greatly reduced in number, and the police in control of those still remaining were holding out,

hoping for relief that would never come. Their only chance lay either in escape or surrender to the people. In many instances the crowd shouted to the police on the roofs that the old Government had been overthrown, but those trained servants of the old regime were incredulous.

Early on this morning news came through that two regiments of Siberian troops would shortly arrive at the Nikolai Station to restore order in the city. The Revolutionists at once gathered together a complete regiment of soldiers, which lined up in front of the Station. On either side of the lines of soldiers were stationed armoured cars supplemented by machine-guns, all trained upon the station. Upon seeing what elaborate preparations had been made for their reception, the new arrivals were impressed and promptly declared themselves for the people.

They immediately disarmed all of their officers and placed them under arrest, but they would not agree to any of them being killed.* In this the crowd acquiesced, and

* I was in the square at the time, and was surprised at the wonderful order maintained by the soldiers.

the officers were then allowed their freedom, but without arms. These new troops then mingled with the crowds and were received with great acclamations. Pieces of red ribbon were supplied to them, which they immediately pinned to their tunics or tied to their bayonets. They then joined the crowd in their police hunts.

During the morning large bodies of Cossacks and soldiers from the various military camps round Petrograd came into the city without their officers and joined the people. All of the officers had been disarmed and the unpopular ones had been shot. Others who were given the benefit of the doubt were placed in confinement. Any officers appearing in the streets were immediately stopped and disarmed. A number of them, however, and more especially the old generals and retired officers, who had been used to the strictest obedience all their lives, quite naturally refused to comply with the wishes of the soldiers and the crowd and were immediately shot where they stood.

All over the city brisk fighting continued, more especially in the vicinity of the Nevsky

Prospect and the Nikolai Station. Some of the fiercest fighting, however, took place on the outskirts of the city, where the buildings were of smaller dimensions and thus gave the police with their machine-guns a greater control over the thoroughfares. In one case a party of soldiers were marching down the road, when the door of a common tea-house situated at the corner of the street suddenly opened, and two machine-guns poured a murderous hail into the ranks of the soldiers, completely annihilating them. Even when they fell wounded, the machine-guns continued to play on the bodies until none stirred.

During these days quick decision often meant one's life. As an instance, a body of mounted soldiers were entering the city from one of the distant military camps, when they were met by a large body of armed Revolutionists and soldiers, who asked them on which side they were. The mounted soldiers replied, "We will decide that question when we reach the city," but this decision was never allowed them, for volley after volley was poured into them by the crowds, hardly a man escaping.

Many very tragic but nevertheless humorous incidents occurred owing to some of the police endeavouring to escape disguised, their favourite disguise being to dress as a woman, and certainly some of them, especially the bigger men, hardly did justice to the fair sex, as even with a pretty hat, a thick veil and feminine costume, their identity was invariably betrayed by their general bearing and size. When caught they were in some instances shot, but more often taken prisoners and escorted to places of detention. Such prisoners when being escorted through the streets by a party of soldiers were a pitiable sight. They could not disguise the terror they felt, yet strove to show a bold front.

One very notable incident of this day was the sacking of the Astoria Hotel. This was the largest and most modern hotel in the city, which some months previously had been commandeered by the Military Authorities as a place of residence for officers on leave with their families, also for officers of the Allied Armies. On the previous evening a deputation had approached the hotel and stated that, provided no resistance was

offered from those in the hotel, the Revolutionists on their part would refrain from violence towards the building or its inmates.

On the Tuesday morning an enormous crowd made its way to the hotel, and a deputation was sent in to ask for the surrender of the Russian officers in the building. The deputation promised that every possible facility would be offered to the foreign officers to leave the building with their effects, and that motor-cars would be placed at their disposal. While the deputation was in the hotel a Russian general performed the mad act of firing into the crowd from one of the windows. At the same moment a machine-gun stationed on the roof poured a stream of lead into the dense mass below, killing and wounding a large number of people.

This infuriated the mob, who returned the fire of the machine-gun with tremendous interest. They simply poured volley after volley into the building, and then rushed the place. This hotel had enormous plate-glass windows reaching to the level of the roadway. These windows were very soon broken and

the crowd poured into the building, where a most terrible struggle took place, numbers being killed on either side as the Russian officers offered a stout resistance. The worst of the fighting took place in the vestibule, and in a short time the big revolving doors were turning round in a pool of blood.

Quite a number of English officers were resident in the building at the time, but naturally did not attempt to join in the fighting. Their chief concern was for the women and children in the building. These they collected together and formed a guard in front of them. They then informed the mob who were in the hotel that they themselves would not in any way interfere with their programme provided that the women and children were not molested, but in such an event they would protect them to the last man. This called forth great cheers from the crowd, who promised that they would not interfere with the English or other foreign officers or any of the women and children. This promise they religiously kept, but insisted that all Russian officers must give

themselves up without further delay. This they were persuaded to do, with the result that they were all immediately placed under arrest and taken from the building.

In the square outside a number of these officers were shot, while others were taken to places of detention under a strong escort of soldiers. Several generals were taken out and shot, including him who had first fired on the crowd, and his body was thrown into the adjoining canal. The mob then looted the building, with the exception of the rooms occupied by the foreign officers. They also broke into the wine cellars, freely consuming all intoxicants. Thus very shortly quite a number of the mob and soldiers were reduced to a state of intoxication. Some of the soldiers, after they had drunk as much as they possibly could, poured the wine into their top-boots and then wandered away to consume more elsewhere.*

All papers, documents and records in the building were taken into the street and made

* I was in the crowd throughout the sacking of the hotel and close to the spot where the generals were executed. Later I went into the hotel, but was ordered out by the soldiers.

into a huge bonfire. The crowd then brought up a number of motor-cars and requested all foreign officers to leave the building. This was done by all officers except the English, who decided to remain where they were, and it was not until late in the evening, when the crowd threatened to bring up the artillery and raze the building to the ground, that the Englishmen decided to leave. This threat of the mob, however, was not carried into effect, and the building still stands, although it has a most dilapidated appearance.

Throughout the day news of the happenings at Headquarters was again given to the people by word of mouth from motor-cars, and in the afternoon and evening further editions of the news-sheets were issued.

The representatives of the soldiers and workpeople issued the following statement, dated March 13th (February 28th) :—

"The old regime has brought the country to the greatest disorder and the people to hunger. To stand this long with patience is impossible. The inhabitants of Petrograd

went into the streets and declared their decision and they were met with volleys instead of bread. The Government of the Tzar gave them lead, not bread. The soldiers, however, were loath to go against the people and turned against the Government. In company with the people they obtained arms and more supplies, and also took charge of a number of important Government departments.

"The fighting continues. It must be carried through to the end. The old regime must be destroyed never to return, and a government by the people established in its place. This must be done for the salvation of Russia.

"The success of the fighting in the interests of democracy depends on the realisation by the people of the necessity of organisation and all their powers.

"Yesterday, March 12th (February 27th), in the Capital was elected a Council of workmen. They were chosen from representatives of workers at works and factories, from the army, democratic socialistic parties and other groups.

"The Council of the labour deputies met at the Imperial Duma to organise the people's power to fight to a decisive finish and secure the political freedom and self-government by the people of Russia.

"The Council has appointed district representatives to establish the people's regime throughout the various districts of Petrograd. We asked the whole population of the Capital to gather round the Council, choose conditions and take into their hands arrangements, and conduct local affairs.

"Altogether and with united strength we will fight to the absolute destruction of the old Government, and call together a Government which shall govern with impartiality, justice, and freedom to all.

"(Signed) Council and Labour Deputies,
"MILIUKOFF AND KARENSKY."

Mr. Rodjanko, President of the Duma, made a long speech to the soldiery, which was to this effect: "The soldiers should obey their officers, as the old regime is still strong, and a small band of well-organised men is stronger

than disorganised mobs. Therefore organise and obey your officers. Welcome freedom of the citizens of Russia." His speech was received with great acclamation by his audience.

On the night of March 13th (February 28th) the Imperial Council decided to inform the Tzar of the new state of affairs, and after a lengthy meeting they sent the following telegram to the Tzar, signed by the members of the Imperial Council. The text of the telegram was as follows :—

" Your Imperial Highness. We, the undersigned chosen members of the Imperial Council, conscious of the great danger now threatening the Fatherland, in duty to your person appeal to you.

" In view of the complete breakdown of the transport service and delivery of necessary materials, all works and factories have come to a standstill. The consequent lack of work and lack of provisions, brought about by the deplorable disorganisation of the transport service, has reduced the people to despair. The feeling is still increasing that the fault

lies with the Government, and the feeling against the powers is sinking deeper into the souls of the people. All this has weakened them and stirred their sleeping power, and in this movement the Army is taking part. The Government, never taking advantage of opportunities to trust Russia, has finally been rendered powerless and discredited, and has brought about a deplorable state of affairs.

"Sire, the further continuance of the present Government in power will result in a complete loss of all order, war, the fall of the dynasty and the absolute impoverishment and unhappiness of Russia.

"We believe that the final measure is for your Imperial Highness to change the whole of the Imperial politics in accordance with the express desires of the people, their reorganisation of public service, the election of ministers and persons, who have the confidence of the people, to put before you a list of persons to form a new cabinet, who will be able to govern the country in accordance with the desires of the people.

"Every hour is valuable. Further delay

on your part will bring about most lamentable results.

"(Signed) Your Imperial Highness' most obedient Subjects,

"Members of the Imperial Council."

Before the above telegram was dispatched, it had been submitted to the members of the Revolutionary Council and approved by them, for it must be understood that although the Tzar was the head of the old regime, in fact of all Russia, he was not personally unpopular, but only considered as weak inasmuch as he allowed himself to be controlled to such a great extent by the German influence at Court. This influence was impressed upon him through the medium of the Tzarina, who, although posing as a great lover of family life, with all her interests wrapped up in the welfare of the Empire, was nevertheless the principal tool in the hands of the enemies of Russia, and was well known to the Revolutionary Party for her strong pro-German and anti-Russian feelings. It was her influence undermining the strength and will of the Tzar himself,

that brought about the chaos of the Revolution with the subsequent downfall of the dynasty and the House of Romanoff.

It is not the first time that advice such as that given in this petition from the Imperial Council had been tendered to the Tzar by true and patriotic Russians. There is no question that had he exercised his power to the full extent and made a clean sweep of the entire Court, and replaced his old advisers by those chosen from his own patriotic subjects, he would have been the most popular man in the whole Russian Empire. What is more, the House of Romanoff would have survived for many years to come, and he would have gone down to posterity as the Saviour of Russia.

His son, the Tzarevitch, although not strikingly popular, was, like his father, always looked upon with reverence by the Russians. The numerous rumours that have from time to time been circulated as to the illness of the heir to the throne have had very little foundation.* Certainly there were through-

* He was rapidly growing out of the trouble that caused so much anxiety when he was a young child.

out the Empire certain cliques or societies of anarchists and nihilists who wished to assassinate the Tzar ; but such societies were in a great minority, for the Russian has always looked up to the Tzar as being supreme. Even the Revolutionary Party was quite prepared to support the Tzar if he would only show that he had strength enough to govern the people justly and for the advancement of the nation.

It was this lack of will-power that the members of the Revolutionary Party so well understood, and even at the last moment, when the people had actually overthrown the old regime, the Tzar still had his last chance ; but so strongly was he in the hands of the traitors at Court, that he was unable to avail himself of this magnificent though last opportunity.

There were reports circulated that the previous telegram sent by Mr. Rodjanko to the Tzar was withheld from him by his advisers, and also rumours of the terrible advice which these advisers gave him, but these are merely rumours.

The Tzarina, posing as a devoted mother

and a lover of the Russians, had for many years skilfully arranged to cover her own intrigues and throw the blame on to the Dowager Empress. At least it was the latter who was blamed by the general public for the majority of the evil results of the Court intrigues.

CHAPTER IX

RESTORING ORDER

MANY times the name of Rasputin has been brought before the public in all parts of the world. Of this odious and sham priest there have been many contradictory reports and rumours. Some of these rumours, however, were not without foundation, for this man, although a humble Siberian peasant, certainly had a strange and terrible power of forcing his will upon persons, more especially upon women.

This power of his was without doubt hypnotic, for from short personal acquaintance he gave me the impression of being an ordinary common moujik or peasant, but for some strange and wonderful power in his eyes, which could probably hypnotise a weak or untrained mind but seemed to have no

extraordinary effects upon a person with a fully developed brain and pronounced disbelief in such hypnotic powers. He usually adopted the ordinary peasant's dress, and it certainly was most appropriate, for garbed in any other apparel he would have been out of place.

Trading on this strange gift of his and utilising it to its utmost capacity, this illiterate and ignorant peasant worked his way from the lowest rung in life to become a power at Court, and without doubt completely, or to a very great extent, controlled the actions of the Tzarina. Rumours of his attractive powers towards the feminine sex are not without foundation. By his control of the mind of the Tzarina he was able to influence her in almost any direction he wished. Knowing this the enemies of the Russian Court sought every possible means to obtain his support, and although he occupied no official position, he was able to dispose of high offices of State. Thus he was a party to the betraying of Russia, yet in many instances, by his advice as to appointments, was able to

further the interests of the Revolutionary Party. Neither side, however, have ever claimed him as their adherent.

From time to time reports were circulated of his assassination, either by nihilists, Government employees, revolutionaries or former mistresses. These, however, always proved false, although his life was certainly attempted on numerous occasions, chiefly by the last-named. Finally his assassination, or execution, was brought about by members of the aristocracy, and his death was undoubtedly a Russian gain.

My only encounter with Rasputin was during a journey from the Ural Mountains to Petrograd, which occupies some three and a half days. At first I had a large coupé to myself, but a short time after, at a small station, a man and two girls entered and took their places. My first thought was that there was some mistake and that a third-class passenger had, by mistake, entered a first-class coupé, as although the two girls were well but plainly dressed, seeming of a slightly better class than the man, the man himself

was clothed as an ordinary moujik, or peasant. His clothes seemed very appropriate to the person wearing them, for his general countenance was that of the ordinary coarse and ill-bred peasant, with unkempt hair and a long beard, on which were traces of recent meals. Below the beard his clothes were also stained with drippings from former repasts. His hands and face would certainly have been better for a good wash.

We had not gone far when the conductor of the train called me into the corridor and said that he was arranging that I should go into another coupé. I told him I was quite comfortable where I was and, as I had booked my seat, had no intention of removing. He was insistent, but I was obstinate and returned to my coupé. My fellow traveller then went into the corridor and had a heated argument with the conductor, who then again approached me about changing my berth; but I could not see the force of his argument that he should interfere with my comfort for the sake of a common-looking peasant. The "peasant" returned to the coupé and proceeded to stare at me with his

strange eyes. I decided that he was trying to will or hypnotise me into falling in with his wishes.

At the next stopping-place I left the train for exercise on the platform. My fellow-passenger did the same, and I noticed that the people on the platform showed him great respect, and as he passed they crossed themselves. I enquired of one of the porters, "Who is that man?" and he replied, "Georgie Rasputin."

This was a revelation to me, as, although I had heard a good deal of this unkempt and unconventional man, I never realised that he was quite so ungroomed as I found him, and I was able to appreciate the conductor's anxiety to get me out of the coupé. I now determined to remain where I was so as to see more of this much-spoken-of individual.

Upon returning to the coupé I closely inspected him and was certainly struck by the expression in his eyes, which were deep and piercing, and probably it was in these eyes that his power lay.

Finding that his efforts to have the coupé

to himself were unavailing, I was left in peace for the remainder of the journey. Upon arriving in Petrograd I saw one of the Court automobiles was waiting for him.

I have referred to Rasputin's "legitimate" daughters, for rumour has it that he has throughout Russia quite a large family of illegitimate children, for this man's morals were of the lowest possible order, and by his hypnotic influence, and possibly owing to some other charms, he was able to influence almost any woman that he wished to such an extent that she would willingly give herself to him and become his mistress as long as it suited his convenience. There have been for many years tales of his doings among the ladies of the Court and aristocracy that are so degrading that they do not permit publication. Even peasant girls were not beneath this man's notice, and so strongly were many women infatuated by him that, when he decided to cast them aside, many of them goaded by jealousy or revenge attempted his life, but without success.

This man, convinced of his power at Court, naturally thought himself immune from

criticism and on one occasion was insolent to the Grand Duke Nicholas, who, having the utmost contempt for such a creature, gave him a sound and public thrashing, which incapacitated Rasputin for some time. After this incident it was only natural that Rasputin made every possible effort to revenge himself on the Grand Duke, and the general impression is that the removal of the Grand Duke from his high office as Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Armies was brought about by the influence of Rasputin.

Ugly stories have for a long time been in circulation about Rasputin and the ex-Tzarina. A letter has even found its way into the newspapers in which she talks about laying her head upon his shoulder. Upon the birth of the Tzarevitch, she is stated to have said that a boy had been born to her and not another girl owing to the divine intervention of her beloved father Rasputin, for it was always as " father " that she addressed him.

After Rasputin had been shot, his body was taken in a motor-car to the Krestofski bridge, spanning one of the sources of the Neva Delta, almost opposite the

Imperial Yacht Club. Here the corpse, which had been heavily weighted, was thrown over the bridge; but no doubt in falling it struck one of the buttresses, which caused the weights to become detached, and also accounted for the bloodstains found on the wooden piles.

Early in the morning a local policeman happened to notice the bloodstains, concluded that they were evidence of some crime and instituted a search along the ice, for at this time the Neva was frozen over. It should be explained that about the buttresses of the bridge the ice is always kept broken up to prevent it from lifting out the piles. Being an old river-policeman this man knew the currents of the river and where a body would be likely to drift. His conclusions were correct, and some quarter of a mile below the bridge he noticed a body beneath the ice. The ice was cut through and the body taken out.

The policeman was unaware of the identity of the body and it was removed to the local police-station. The police officer, however, immediately recognised who it was, as reports

had been circulated that Rasputin was missing. The body was removed to a house close by, and that night was taken away in a large motor-car to some unknown destination. The greatest secrecy was maintained as to the disposal of the body. It was given out to the people that it had been interred in his native village. Subsequent events, however, have proved that it was really buried in the grounds of the Tzar's Palace of Tzarskoe Selo.

Throughout Tuesday night, March 13th (February 28th), fighting in the streets continued, differing from the previous night only by the absence of the ominous glow from the burning buildings, which were now completely gutted. The morning of March 14th (March 1st) found the streets of the city crowded with the mobs still employed in fighting, but on a much reduced scale. During the night the Committee at Headquarters had been getting its organisation to work for the control of the mobs, and already special patrols of citizen militia were being formed with a view to restoring order and disarming the hooligans and criminals.

Such work was extremely dangerous to the patrols, whose patriotic feelings overcame their fears and caused them to carry out their orders in the most praiseworthy manner. Such militia were given power of life and death over the citizens, and thus were able to enforce their orders by the use of arms. In this they did not hesitate to shoot down hooligans who refused to obey their instructions. In fact, it was owing to the splendid work of these men that the disorderly mobs were rendered harmless.

The militia were formed from ordinary citizens, who volunteered for such service. They were fully armed and wore a badge on the left arm. In addition they were provided with a special paper of authority, signed by the Council of Delegates. Their most difficult problem was to prevent the many armed motor-cars from rushing needlessly about the streets. This they did by lining up across the roads and holding up the cars at the point of the bayonet, and permitting only cars to pass, the drivers of which could produce an official document to prove their right to proceed. If such document were not forth-

coming, the occupants were ordered to descend and the car was confiscated.

In some few cases the occupants of such cars, especially when intoxicated, refused to obey instructions, with the result that a short but brisk fight ensued, but always with the defeat of the rebels. The cars that were allowed by the Provisional Government were those carrying patrols to any point in the city where exceptional trouble was experienced, and also those conveying arrested persons to places of confinement.

To assist the militia in their arduous duties, official proclamations were posted at different points throughout the city, calling upon the people to render every possible assistance. The first order thus issued was as follows :—

"I order units of the army and the town militia in making arrests to observe the following rules: To place under arrest without delay drunkards, looters, incendiaries, anyone firing into the air or interfering against the calm and order of the city, also anyone whatsoever not having special powers

from the Provisional Parliament, and who refuses to obey the instructions of those responsible for the guardianship of the city.

"All units committing any breach of the peace, also secret police and ordinary service of the old police force.

"All persons making enquiries or searching in private apartments, or arresting private persons, and especially units of the army not having special passes from the Provisional Parliament.

"Further, all arrests under the above categories to be at once escorted to the nearest places of confinement, a list of which have been submitted to those in control. At all such places those arrested are to be immediately handed over to the person in command of the station.

"At the Tavrechski Palace only dignitaries and generals are to be brought, in the event of its being necessary to arrest them.

"(Signed) Member of the Provisional Committee,

"M. KARAVALOFF."

A note to the above was added that all arrested members of the police, secret police, and gendarmes were to be dispatched to the Commanding Officers at the riding-school of Horse Guards Regiment.

On this day a number of officers who had been disarmed and released were invited to attend at the officers' club and swear allegiance to the new regime. These invitations were accepted by many, who were then given new swords and revolvers and were considered to be again in an official capacity as officers. Posters were circulated throughout the city, bearing the following resolutions of the officers of the Petrograd Garrison, at a meeting held in the Army and Navy Hall :—

" Officers present in Petrograd going hand in hand with the people resolved, on the recommendation of the acting Committee of the Imperial Duma, that for the victorious conclusion of the war it is absolutely necessary to organise the people as quickly as possible and work hand in hand with them. It was resolved without dissent to accept the orders of the acting Committee of the Imperial

Duma until such time as a representative Parliament was formed.

"(Signed) President of the Meeting,
"COLONEL GASHCHUK."

In the morning the following notice was circulated throughout the city:—

"Commanding Officers. All Commanding Officers are to take up their positions in readiness to fulfil their duties by one o'clock to-day."

While these troubles were taking place in the city, towns and villages in the immediate vicinity had been experiencing their own trouble. This is well illustrated by an appeal from the Commanding Officer at the Tzar's Palace at Tzarskoe Selo. This appeal was telephoned through to the President of the Provisional Committee at the Imperial Duma, and he was asked to take urgent measures for the establishment of order in Tzarskoe Selo and especially in the neighbourhood of the Palaces, as serious fighting was taking place.

Immediately this news came through, the Provisional Committee requested several of

its members to go to Tzarskoe Selo to investigate and restore order. At the same time the Committee issued orders that all units in the Tzarskoe Garrison should remain at their posts and keep order.

On this day, although practically all the police with their machine-guns had been accounted for, a few still remained, no doubt hoping for relief. With the defeat of these units the street fighting rapidly subsided, and shots that were fired were chiefly those by intoxicated members of the mobs, and boys, who still took a keen delight in firing their weapons into the air, which brought down upon them the militia patrols, who confiscated their arms. Thus, in the incredibly short space of five days, the long-hoped-for Revolution had taken place, the old Government had been completely overthrown, and a Revolutionary Administration formed.

By the evening there were comparatively few hooligans in the streets bearing arms, and quite a large proportion of the freed criminals had been retaken and secured, receiving however better treatment than had been meted out to them under the old regime.

All shops and places of business had been closed down for the past week. Provision shops were now reopened, with the result that the long queues of patient women were again seen waiting for bread. These poor people were certainly models of patience, for it must be remembered that for days they had been unable to buy any food whatsoever, and therefore had to live as best they could; but knowing that events were shaping for their own salvation, they bore their trials and troubles bravely.

The efforts of the Revolutionary Party were already making themselves felt on the question of food supplies to the poor and needy, for the waiting crowds were finally rewarded with a supply of freshly-baked and steaming hot black bread. It was a pleasure to see with what radiant countenances these poor people left the shops when they had received their supply. In many cases they could not wait to get home, but commenced to eat the bread on their way.

As each lucky person issued with her supply she received a cheer from those still waiting. The dole of bread they all received was in-

adequate to fulfil their immediate demands, still not a murmur of discontent was heard, for they were convinced that their troubles were now practically over, and that in future they would have no cause for further starvation. In many cases where the people showed a tendency to crowd the shops, soldiers voluntarily undertook to keep order. Both they and the crowds were in the best of humours and were continually cracking jokes together.

Throughout Wednesday night comparative quiet reigned, and on Thursday morning, March 15th (March 2nd), although spasmodic street fighting continued, serious disturbances were practically at an end. The streets throughout the city were thronged with large crowds, but of a much better class than those of the previous days, and a distinct air of goodwill and security prevailed. Everyone wore a piece of red ribbon and from all buildings red flags were flying, this being probably the first occasion in Russia when the flags that were flying really indicated the feelings of the people. The demand for red ribbon and red flags more than exceeded the supply, and

therefore the flags flying from the various houses generally consisted of the red strip cut from the national flag, which is white, blue, and red.

It was astonishing that the crowds were able to stand the long hours which they spent in the streets throughout these few days, for the temperature was never higher than 45° F. below freezing.

Although general quiet seemed to reign as one studied the immediate local surroundings, the city as a whole was still throbbing with unrest, and it was this that the citizen militia was trying to eliminate. A common sight throughout the day was that of parties of hooligans being rounded up and disarmed; also a great number of police were caught in various guises, but the people refrained from molesting them, permitting the militia to escort them away to prison. All the machine-guns on the various roofs and churches had now been accounted for, and the people in the streets had nothing to fear in this direction. In the outskirts of the city a few of the police still held out, but were induced to surrender or were summarily shot. That the people

should show mercy to the police, who had so often butchered their fellow-citizens, is perhaps the greatest testimony to the peaceable nature of the Russian.

This day will for ever be remembered by the Russian nation as that upon which the Tzar abdicated the Throne of the Romanoffs. He sent the following Manifesto of Abdication to the Delegates of the Duma and the Provisional Council :—

"*Manifesto by the Tzar Nikolai II abdicating the throne.*

"To prevent the enslavement of our country by foreign enemies we are still fighting a War which has already been proceeding for three years, and God has now seen fit to visit a still further trial on our sorely-tried Russia.

"The indication of internal unrest among the people threatens to reflect very unfavourably on the War to protect our frontiers.

"The fate of Russia, the honour of our heroic army, the happiness of our people and the whole future of our Fatherland makes final victory vital to us.

"Our cruel enemy is exerting his final efforts against us and already the hour draws near when, thanks to our army in company with our Allies, the enemy will be brought to his knees.

"At this decisive moment of the fortunes of Russia, we find it our bounden duty to take such steps as will enable our people to attain to that unity of purpose and power indispensable for the earliest possible conquest of the enemy, and in accordance with the advice of the Imperial Duma we abdicate from the throne of Russia and renounce the high powers attached to the office.

"Not wishing to part with our beloved son, we pass the succession in favour of our Brother, His Highness Prince Michael Alexandrovitch, with our blessing on his accession to the throne of Russia.

"We command our Brother to govern the country in strict accordance with the wishes of the Ministers to be chosen by the people and that he swear this oath for the sake of our dearly-loved Fatherland.

"We command all true sons of the Fatherland to fulfil their sacred duty, obedience to

him as Tzar in this dire moment in the troubles of the people, and to help him, in company with the people's representatives, to guide the Russian Empire to victory, happiness and success.

"So may God help Russia.

"(Signed) NIKOLAI.

"Peskof, 15th March (2nd March), 15 hours, 3 minutes, 1917.

"(Countersigned) Minister of the Imperial Court,

"General Adjutant, COUNT FRIEDRICKS."

Directly this manifesto was received its text was printed and distributed in large numbers throughout the capital. It was received with great acclamations by the people.

The Delegates of the Duma and the Provisional Government placed the matter before Prince Michael, who after short consideration decided to refuse the offer of this high office and handed his refusal to the Provisional Government. The text of the refusal was as follows :—

"A difficult task has been laid on me by the wish of my Brother abdicating the Imperial Throne in my favour during the period of an unprecedented war and unrest among the people.

"In common with the whole nation my wish above all others—the happiness of Russia—I have unalterably decided that I will only accept the high powers offered me in the event of its being the wish of the whole people, who also choose with undivided voice through their representatives in the Representative Parliament, decide the style of Government and the new laws of the Russian Empire.

"Therefore with God's help I ask all Citizens to obey the Provisional Government established by the efforts of the Imperial Duma, which is endowed with unlimited powers, until that moment in which in the shortest period, on the basis of unfettered and free election by the people, is elected a House of Representatives and by their choice the form of Government to show the will of the people.

"(Signed) MICHAEL."

The News-sheets of this day informed the people that the fortress of Schlusselburg had been taken by the Revolutionary arms and that all political prisoners had been released. It also gave news of the arrest of various Ministers of the old regime, among them being Trepof, Prince Shakofckie, Maklakof, Balk, Stürmer, Kurlof, Rein, Shahmatof, Komisarot, Borisof, Admiral Ginse and others. Several notices were also in the paper, one being as follows :—

"On 14th March (1st March) among the people in the Petrograd Garrison there are rumours that officers of certain regiments have attempted to deprive the men of their arms. These rumours have been confirmed in two regiments. As President of the War Commission of the Provisional Committee of the Imperial Duma, I give notice that in the event of any officers attempting the same procedure the offender shall be fired upon at once.

"(Signed) Member of the Imperial Duma,
"B. ENGELHART."

During the Meeting of the Soldiers and Labour Deputies the following were the most important events discussed :—

(1) Relations between the soldiers and the returning officers.

(2) The issue of fire-arms.

(3) The competency of the War Commission.

At this Meeting Citizen Maxin suggested :—

(1) To suggest at once to their Commander that the soldiers issue fire-arms to no one.

(2) Request soldiers to elect a Deputy from every Regiment.

(3) Request soldiers to make their political demands only through the Soldiers' and Labour Deputies.

(4) That the soldiers be requested to obey all officers at the front, and to treat all officers not at the front as fellow citizens.

On this day several editions of the Newssheet were issued giving general particulars to the public. The following extracts may be of interest :—

"Fate of the Tzar: It was reported by the Soldiers' and Labour Delegates that in the neighbourhood of the town of Dno the Imperial train was stopped and the station was occupied by members of the Revolutionary Army and a guard placed to prevent the train moving. The question as to whether Nikolai should be arrested was discussed.

"Further reports state that Nikolai has been sent to Peskof.

"The Empress, who is at Tzarskoe Selo, is continually in hysterics. The heir has a temperature of 30° R."

It is well to note here that the dethroned Tzar was now simply termed Nikolai, his imperial and royal titles being altogether disregarded. It can be quite understood why the Tzarina should be in hysterics, as she could not have been sure that her own life was worth a moment's purchase. At the time of these troubles the young Tzarevitch was suffering from an attack of measles, which accounts for his high temperature.

The above report regarding the Tzar was

later proved to be untrue, as he was during the troubles in the city residing at Peskof, a town situated between Petrograd and Riga.

The following are extracts from an Order issued by the Soldiers' and Labour Deputies on March 15th (March 2nd) :—

(1) Election of Representatives from both Army and Navy.

(2) All units to choose a Representative who must report with written authority to the Imperial Duma.

(3) All political questions to be submitted only through the Soldiers' and Labour Deputies.

(4) All orders of the War Committee to be executed, except those not agreed to by the Soldiers' and Labour Committees.

(5) All fire-arms, armoured-cars, etc., to be at the disposal of Battalion Committees, and under no circumstances whatsoever are they to be delivered to officers even when so commanded.

(6) All soldiers to do their utmost to preserve discipline.

(7) All officers' titles to be dropped; Mr. General, Mr. Colonel, etc., only to be used.

(8) Soldiers not to be addressed as thou, nor are they to be spoken to roughly or uncivilly.

The above gave some idea of the distrust of the people for the officers, and the last item clearly indicated that discipline did not exist. Officers had hitherto always addressed their soldiers in the familiar thou instead of you, this familiar expression being only employed to inferiors, or when addressing near relatives and intimates.

Another item from the News-sheet of March 15th (March 2nd) relating to the indiscriminate use of fire-arms is as follows :—

"REGISTRATON OF FIRE-ARMS.

"On the first day of our great Revolution many rifles and cartridges were obtained or distributed. Many of these, however, fell into the wrong hands, and in a great number of cases hooligans, criminals and other shady characters of the old regime obtained possession. This is a Revolution against the

old regime, therefore an exact inventory must be obtained of all arms.

"All good citizens will assist the new authorities to the utmost of their power to achieve this."

A special Declaration dated March 15th (March 2nd) was issued to the people, which was headed :—

"REVERSION TO THE PEOPLE.

"Citizens, the great deed is accomplished, the old regime which was ruining Russia is no more.

"The Committee of the Imperial Duma and the Council of Soldiers' and Labour Deputies are establishing order in the service of the country.

"The most important work at the present moment is the provisioning of the army and the people. A Committee of Supplies has been appointed and will take the matter in hand. There is, however, very little reserve, and supplies must be increased without further delay.

"Citizens of Russia, Farmers, Landowners,

Merchants and Railwaymen, assist the Fatherland.

"We must feed the army and the people. The enemy is not yet beaten. All as one man must give a hand to help in this terrible day. Let none shrink from the fulfilment of his duty as a citizen. Let every man's conscience permit him to give. Give bread quickly to those in authority, give everything you can. Carry it to the railroads and piers and quickly load and send the goods to their destinations.

"The Fatherland awaits the help of all. Give bread to her fighters and workers. Time waits not. Every hour is precious. Do not delay.

"Citizens, come to the help of your country with bread and labour!"

Thus the most undeveloped of the European Great Powers had suddenly found itself in the front ranks of progress. Fully to appreciate the change a knowledge of Russian character is necessary.

The Russians, more especially of the lower or peasant class, are very conservative in

their ideas of life, and never look with favour upon modern appliances wherewith to increase their comfort and ease their labours. They invariably look upon machinery in any form as the instruments of the devil.

Their implements for agriculture and handicraft are of the most simple possible nature, in fact nothing more than duplicates of those used by their forefathers centuries ago. If you were to point out to a Russian that he could minimise his labours by employing modern machinery, or even ordinary simple modern tools, he would invariably reply: "My father and grandfather used such instruments as I am using and they served their purpose and therefore serve mine." The Russian village carpenter invariably has but one instrument, a broad axe. With this and no other tools he will build himself a house and make all its furniture. So competent are they in the use of this simple tool that their finished work has every appearance of having been made by modern instruments. They take great pride in their axe, the edge of which is as keen as that of a razor.

In some districts the ploughing is done by

the trunk of a tree, a projecting root acting as the ploughshare. It is interesting to see, in the neighbourhood of some of the gigantic cornfields, a peasant with a small holding of his own ploughing his fields by this simple and antiquated method, while in the immediate neighbourhood a large steam tractor will be at work pulling a number of most up-to-date ploughs.

Their carts are invariably springless and are of the most simple possible construction. Owing to the extreme badness of what they call roads, their carts are provided with extra long axles which allow several inches of side play for the wheels. The reason for this is not obvious at first, but when one sees the nature of the roads it is easily apparent, for an ordinary cart with no play on the wheel axles would very soon be stuck in the mud or in the ruts in the road. It is for this reason this large axle play is allowed, which permits of the wheels shearing their way out of trouble. To us these carts would appear ridiculously small, but larger ones would be useless owing to the nature of the roads and also to the small size of the horses com-

pared to those in this country. . On the Russian harness there are no buckles whatsoever, all fastenings being made with thongs of leather. The reason for the strange hoop, always associated with the Russian cart or carriage, is to distribute more evenly on the horses' shoulders the strain of the load. Apart from its utility it makes a picturesque setting.

Now a new era has dawned, and the Russian peasant can no longer regard as sufficient an obsolete thing because it served his fathers faithfully. He has left his fathers far behind.

CHAPTER X

THE REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT

ONE of the first steps taken by the Revolutionary Committee directly it had overthrown the Government, was to take charge of the public water, lighting, telephone and telegraph systems. The Committee knew the importance of keeping the city supplied and communication intact. This was successfully accomplished, and throughout the whole of the five days of fighting and subsequently, all public services were in operation, the telephone girls remaining at their posts during the whole of the trouble. If one could not get connected with a certain number the operator would politely inform one that the instrument was out of order. This usually meant that a bullet had severed the wire. Also throughout these days of strife the postal

service was in operation; letters, telegrams, and even cablegrams, being delivered as regularly as the exceptional circumstances would permit, and it was only on Monday, the day of the heaviest fighting, that the telegraph offices were closed.*

During these days all of the Ministers of the old regime had been arrested and placed in confinement, and it was announced by the Government that they would be given a public trial by the people.

Later on this day, March 2nd (March 15th), isolated cases of shooting broke out afresh. Directly this information reached the Provisional Committee they issued the following notice throughout the city :—

"The bloody Government is still unwilling to recognise the victory of the people. Many of their parasites, provocators, police, gendarmes and spies have hidden themselves on the roofs of houses, in attics, and other holes and corners, and are still firing on the people. This is a forlorn hope, however, and they will

* I myself sent and received business cables during the hottest of the fighting.

achieve nothing. The Revolutionary Army is supreme and can easily cope with the dying activities of this ugly monster. Our comrades will easily and quickly rid us of these enemies of the people. Citizens, their extermination is in your hands."

The night of Thursday was comparatively calm and fewer people were to be seen in the streets late at night, and in fact the general situation was rapidly resuming the normal. Very occasional and minor fights took place, but these were hardly noticed.

On the morning of Friday, March 3rd (March 16th), thousands again thronged the streets. They were all good-tempered and did their utmost to assist the Militia in restoring order. To give the people further confidence, the new Government had issued instructions that all banks were to be opened for business from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and that shops were to open. This was a great stride in composing the feelings of the people, who were keen to start their business again under the new order of things. A notice was issued in circular form throughout the city with

regard to the shops. It was addressed to shopkeepers and read :—

"There are many shops still closed. They must be opened at once. Our victorious army and the people must have the necessaries of life. Under the protection of army patrols and our organised Citizen Militia shops need fear no danger. In the daytime shops may carry on their trade in all calm, but at night they should be well guarded. Start at once."

The people in the streets were all eagerly discussing the new Government.

On March 15 (March 2nd), 1915, the Executive Committee of the Imperial Duma gave notice, that the following members had been appointed to form the new Government :—

(1) Prince G. E. Lvoff, President of the Council of Ministers and Minister of the Interior. (Formerly member of the first Duma, President of the Chief Committee of the District Councils of all Russia.)

(2) P. N. Miliukoff, Minister for Foreign Affairs. (Formerly member of the Imperial Duma for Petrograd.)

(3) A. F. Karensky, Minister of Justice. (Formerly member of the Imperial Duma for the Government of Saratof.)

(4) N. V. Nekrasoff, Minister of Ways and Communications. (Formerly assistant to the President of the Duma.)

(5) A. E. Konovaloff, Minister of Trade and Industry. (Formerly assistant to the President of the Central War Supplies Committee and member of the Imperial Duma for the Government of Kostroma.)

(6) Professor A. A. Manueloff, Minister of Education. (Late member of the Imperial Duma and Rector of Moscow University.)

(7) A. E. Guchkoff, Minister of War, and Provisional Minister of Marine. (Formerly of the Imperial Duma and President of the Committee on War Supplies.)

(8) A. E. Schengareff, Minister of Agriculture. (Formerly member of the Imperial Duma for the City of Petrograd.)

P. N. MILIUKOFF
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN THE REPUBLICAN MINISTRY

(9) M. E. Tereschtenko, Minister of Finance.

(10) E. V. Godneff, Imperial Controller. (Formerly member of the Imperial Duma for Kazan Government.)

(11) V. N. Lvoff, Attorney-General for the Holy Synod. (Formerly member of the Imperial Duma for the Government of Samara.)

(12) T. E. Rodicheff, Minister of Finnish Affairs. (Formerly member of the Imperial Duma for the City of Petrograd.)

The election of the above was made in full agreement with the members of the Soldiers' and Workmen's Delegates.

Together with the issue of the names of the new Government, a special paper was issued to give the people an idea as to the programme of the Government. The text was as follows :—

" The election of the new Government was made in agreement with the members of the Imperial Duma and the Soldiers' and Labour Deputies.

"Citizens, the Government will occupy itself at once with the following questions :—

"(1) Full and immediate amnesty to all political and religious prisoners, as well as to those arrested for terrorism against the old Government.

"(2) Free speech, Press and Clubs, Societies, etc., etc., and political freedom for those serving in the army in so far as it does not disagree with necessary military and technical conditions.

"(3) Abolition of all restrictions on Societies, Creeds and Nationalities.

"(4) Immediate establishment of means for universal and secret voting on the question of the form of Government and the Constitution.

"(5) Change of Police to popular Militia, with the election of a Chief, each district to have charge of its own arrangements.

"(6) Choice of Local Election Committee to ensure proper and secret voting.

"(7) The army in Petrograd taking part in the Revolution shall not be disarmed and not sent from Petrograd.

"(8) While on duty the strictest discipline should be observed, but when off duty soldiers shall have the same rights and freedom as all officers.

"The Provisional Government deems it its duty herewith to declare that they will not take advantage of the War to delay its reforms and will bring them into operation as soon as possible.

"(Signed) President of the Duma,

"RODJANKO."

The general organisation of the Citizen Militia was soon well in hand, and a number of large restaurants and cinema halls were taken over and converted into central feeding points for the soldiers, the local residents being invited to contribute food, tea, tobacco, etc. Large supplies were immediately forthcoming, the people being willing to give almost everything they had. It was very noticeable that the better classes were the donors of these supplies, as it was they who had been storing up as much food as they possibly could against eventualities.

This storage of food supplies had helped the old regime in their plan to reduce the food-stuffs for the needy workpeople to an absolute minimum. Although the police had cornered as much of the food as they could lay their hands on, the upper classes had been quite unwittingly furthering their purpose.

Now that good times were thought to be at hand, these people gave up their hoarded food to the soldiers. This is a good lesson to any nation to refrain from hoarding the necessaries, for while there is sufficient to supply the immediate needs of everyone, in certain circumstances there is insufficient to fulfil the supply of the day and also allow for selfish and unnecessary hoarding. These numerous feeding points for the soldiers were soon in working order, and free meals were given to any soldiers for the asking. In some districts such points were utilised for the poorer classes.

The numerous stores of flour, sugar, and other real necessaries, which the police had hidden away, were taken control of by the Citizen Militia and distributed to the various shops. The flour was distributed to the

bakeries, who were asked to bake bread immediately for the people.

As mentioned before, the prices in the shops of general food-stuffs had risen beyond famine prices. This was pointed out to the Provisional Committee, who immediately issued a detailed schedule, which brought such prices down almost to the pre-war figures. This appeared to be a splendid idea, and in fact worked very well until the shopkeepers had sold the stocks which they had in the shops. When these stocks had been disposed of they had declared they could sell no more, as the new prices meant a loss for them, they being compelled to buy from the profiteers at still higher prices than those fixed as the maximum.

Quite naturally the people took advantage of the fixed low prices to buy up as much food as they could, but when no more was forthcoming, the shops closed. As food was still necessary for the people, those with sufficient money obtained provisions from the shopkeepers privately by paying a price higher than that of the tariff. Such conditions naturally could not continue, so the

shops opened again, after magically finding fresh supplies, and were permitted to charge slightly higher prices, but not those ruling prior to the Revolution.

The following is a comparison of food prices ruling before the war, before the Revolution, and those given by tariff by the Revolutionary Committee :—

	Pre-War.	Pre-Revolution.	New Tariff.
Rye Bread (per lb.)	3 copecks.	18 copecks.	7 copecks.
Meat (best quality)	30 ,,	Roubles 1.50.	68 ,,
Pork	30 ,,	,, 2.	Roubles 1.20.
Table Butter	80 ,,	,, 3.80	,, 1.90.
Cooking Butter (lb.)	40 ,,	,, 3.60.	,, 1.80.
Eggs (10)	40 ,,	,, 2.	,, 1.50.
Milk	12 ,,	50 copecks.	25 copecks.
Fowls	R. 1.20 (each).	Roubles 2 (lb.).	90 ,, (lb.).
Geese	R. 4 (each).	,, 1.80 (lb.).	70 ,, (lb.).
Cheese (lb).	80 copecks.	,, 3.80.	Roubles 1.40.
Sugar	16 ,,	Unobtainable.	29 copecks.*

On Saturday, March 17th (March 4th), 1917, general conditions throughout the city were almost normal again. During the night of Friday the temperature had dropped considerably, and Saturday morning dawned with a fierce blizzard raging. This was the first bad weather experienced throughout the days occupied by the Revolution. It may

* A rouble is worth about two shillings of English money. There are a hundred copecks in a rouble.

safely be said that this blizzard did more to restore order than the work of the Citizen Militia, for so fiercely did it rage that the streets everywhere were practically deserted. This allowed the Militia and the military patrols time for making further arrangements for controlling the movements of the people.

In the early part of the afternoon the weather changed to beautiful sunshine, although the temperature remained at 40° F below freezing. With the breaking up of the blizzard and the appearance of the sun, thousands upon thousands of people flocked into the streets, singing and cheering. They found, however, that the Militia had already made their preparations, and that they were not allowed quite so much freedom as they had enjoyed during the previous few days. However, the people did their utmost to assist the Militia in their task.

Although the Winter Palace had been occupied by the Revolutionaries, the building itself did not sustain the slightest damage, and on the Saturday for the first time a blood-red flag is waving upon the Palace, also all the emblems of royalty on the

that all misunderstandings dissipate our power, and facilitate the old powers who are already organising against our freedom and to fight against us. The old regime is using every means in its power to cause dissension in our ranks, they will stop at nothing. Be on your guard. At present they are endeavouring to cause trouble between you and the officers who have sided with the Revolution. Do not be deceived by these agitators; recollect that the Revolutionary officers are now our comrades, and hearsay, whether unsubstantiated or now substantiated by rumours, is not worthy of attention. Do not believe these rumours, and do not take any rash steps against our officer comrades, only when there is some suspicious fact, bring it immediately to the notice of the Executive Committee of the Soldiers' and the Labour Deputies. Do not believe orators who are without special authority from the Executive Committee; these orators have written authority. Comrades, look after your hard-won freedom. Be careful; freedom is in our hands. We would not forfeit that hard-won freedom. We will advance along

the road with strengthened Revolutionary ideals, side by side with our officer comrades who have come over to our side. Welcome freedom. Welcome our Revolutionary Army."

In many parts of the city newspapers were sold by auction in the streets with the object of raising money to supply the immediate needs of the soldiers and poorer classes in the city. Such auctions greatly amused the crowd, and in many cases very large sums of money were realised even for the single 5 kopeck (penny) paper; these sums on several occasions amounted to several thousands of roubles, or hundreds of pounds.

Now that the fighting and general troubles were over, the crowd having nothing particular to occupy their attention naturally became serious, and looked round for something to do. Outside one of the palaces someone suggested that the Royal coats of arms and other emblems of the old regime should be torn down and burnt.

This advice was quickly taken up by the crowd, and in a very short time ladders were

brought from all directions, and coats of arms of every description were torn down from palaces, shops and other buildings, and made into huge bonfires in the streets. All coats of arms were treated in this way regardless as to the nationality which they represented, and certainly any with an eagle on them were burnt. Where such coats of arms were made of metal they were taken to the canals, and after a hole had been made in the ice they were flung into the water. When removing these emblems from the various buildings the people took the greatest care to avoid unnecessary damage.

Throughout the whole of the week vehicular traffic had been entirely suspended; to-day, however, for the first time drojkies, or cabs, were to be seen on the streets, and did a splendid business, as everybody was anxious to have a ride, as a change from the incessant walking which the absence of conveyances had necessitated during the previous week.

Now that the Republic was in power everybody was a "citizen," there being absolutely no class distinction. Everybody was a brother or sister, comrade or friend, and when bargain-

ing with a cabman one had to address him as brother or comrade, he using similar expressions. This seemed very strange, especially when one was always used to addressing them as "thou." Even officers when addressing the soldiers had to call them brothers, the soldier also addressing the officer in the same way. All references in papers to the Tzar were as "Citizen Nikolai Romanoff," or more often simply "Citizen Nikolai."

On March 14th (March 1st) a statement was issued by the Provisional Parliament to the effect that the British and French Ambassadors had entered into a working agreement with the Acting Committee of the Imperial Duma for the settlement of current affairs. This news was received with delight by the people throughout the city, and processions were formed which marched to the Embassies, which were cheered to the echo.

Another order was issued on the following day, March 15th (March 2nd), 1917, equally important to the populace; it ran :—

"All those who have been suffering by imprisonment for their political convictions

THE NEVSKY PROSPECT AFTER THE BLIZZARD
The first cabmen to resume business. In normal times snow is never permitted to remain on the Nevsky

have been set free. Unfortunately at the same time many undesirable law-breakers obtained their freedom. These murderers, burglars and robbers, clothed in soldiers' uniforms, are entering private houses under the guise of making search, which they have no legal right to do, and are stealing from and frightening the public.

"I order that all such persons shall be detained without hesitation and every measure taken against them, even to shooting them in the event of resistance. All military and militia patrols must have a white band on the left arm, giving particulars of the unit to which they belong, and must have written authority from their unit.

"(Signed) M. A. KARAVALOFF,
"Member of the Provisional Govt."

CHAPTER XI

THE PROBLEM OF THE WORKERS AND THE SOLDIERS

ALTHOUGH by this time the situation appeared to be working normally again, close inspection showed that already the workpeople had been too long unemployed. There was a distinct undercurrent of unrest prevailing and such unrest was without doubt being fomented by some unseen, but not very powerful organisation. Groups of workpeople were beginning to have heated arguments with groups of soldiers. This was a bad sign, as a break between the soldiers and the people would spell ruin to Russia, and without doubt would mean the re-establishment of the old regime.

These signs had not passed unnoticed by the Revolutionary Committee, who were doing their utmost to get the people back to

their work, but this the people were loth to do, as they were not yet tired of the feeling of elation consequent upon their new-found freedom, in fact it was humorous to hear some of the remarks of the workmen. Having suffered for so many years under the iron heel of oppression, their dulled minds, thus suddenly awakened, were not able to grasp things. When they heard the various orators tell them they were now free, they naturally thought that this meant that they would never have to work again. When these same orators later told them to prepare to go back to work on the Monday, they ingenuously remarked, " Why go back to work ? Are not the rich going to keep us now ? We are all equal, therefore why should they have more money ? "

It was only after lengthy and very detailed explanations that they were able to grasp the fact that unless they worked they would starve. When they were convinced of this they became very suspicious that the new organisation was going to grind them down to suit its own purposes. This feeling so permeated the lower working-classes that in

many instances they refused to return to their work, and those that did so put forward the most ridiculous demands to their employers. A good deal of dissent was spread amongst the people by some of the workmen, who imagined that they really knew the real state of affairs, gathering round them a crowd and explaining their views of the situation, which were, in many cases, most ridiculous and very misleading.

When the Russian workman gets an idea fixed in his head it is difficult for that idea to be driven out, and therefore, although they were delighted that their arch-enemies, the police, had been entirely wiped out, nevertheless their religious teaching for generations had impressed upon them that the Tzar was supreme, and they could not understand that he no longer occupied his high position. This feeling was more evident amongst the women, who in Russia, as in every other country, invariably show a more deeply-rooted feeling for their religious teaching. To show how little the people realised what a Republican Government meant, there were some small cliques who were shouting out "Respublic

pod Tzarom," meaning "Republic under the Tzar."

The numerous agitators and extremists amongst the workmen did their utmost to persuade the people not to return to their work until they had some definite proof that the Republic was really an established fact. For the workpeople to go back, they urged, under the same conditions ruling prior to the Revolution, meant that nothing had been gained by the enormous sacrifice of life which the people had made. This was no doubt a sound argument from their point of view, but it was keeping the people idle, which meant they got into mischief.

On the other hand, the soldiers, whose ranks had now been swelled to an alarming extent, absolutely refused to adopt any system of discipline. They wandered about the streets as they pleased, refusing to give up their arms. It was a common sight to see a soldier or a sailor with an officer's sword at his side, a revolver at his belt, a rifle over his shoulder, and a large belt of machine-gun cartridges, walking arm-in-arm with his sweetheart.

The soldiers fully realised that numbers meant strength, and therefore about 20,000 of them collected in the Narodney Dom, or People's Palace, a magnificent building which was some years ago presented to the people by the Tzar. The soldiers established themselves in this building and mounted machine-guns at the windows and doors. They would not allow a single officer or civilian into the building, but appointed their own officers from the ranks. All efforts of the new Ministers to persuade them to leave the building and return to their barracks were unavailing. They were quite peaceful and took great care to avoid damaging the building in any way whatsoever. They arranged their own kitchen and turned one of the many halls into a mess-room. Any soldier was welcome and could always have a meal and a bed.

Their example was followed by other groups of soldiers who commandeered palaces or large cinema halls; these latter, however, were soon persuaded to return to barracks, but not so those in the People's Palace.

Many people in this country, who gather from the papers reports of the lack of dis-

cipline amongst the soldiery in Petrograd, naturally conclude that the same state of affairs must also prevail at the fronts, but this is not so. Ten days after Red Monday an old workman of mine returned from the front and came to see me. I asked him what he was doing in Petrograd, and he stated that he had returned from the southern front with two regiments of soldiers to quell the disturbances. On the journey up to Petrograd they had learnt the true facts of the situation, and upon their arrival immediately joined the Revolutionaries, but would not allow their officers even to be disarmed.

I asked him how the Revolution had affected the troops at the front. He replied that directly the news came through of the lack of discipline in Petrograd, the soldiers at the front had petitioned their officers to be, if possible, more severe with them and maintain still stricter discipline. The men fully realised that its absence would without doubt mean defeat and the loss of their own lives. He stated that although there were a large number of officers who were unpopular, and whom he and his comrades would have great

pleasure in killing, nevertheless the safety of the nation was of paramount importance. When asked as to the fate of these officers later he simply shrugged his shoulders.

I enquired how things were going at the front, and he replied, "Well, but never very good under the old commanders." Although the majority of the higher officers were themselves patriotic, yet they were forced to obey commands from Headquarters, which commands were generally given more in the interests of the enemy than in those of Russia. On numerous occasions, though they had the Germans and Turks beaten and on the run, they were ordered to retire. At other times, when they were firmly installed in their trenches, an order would come through to retire to the second line, and thus leave their well-equipped and well-stocked trenches in the hands of the enemy. Since the Revolution, however, such things had not occurred, and he was confident that with the new order of things victory would be assured, for the soldiers had every confidence in themselves.

The lack of discipline and general unrest

among the working-classes caused the new Government many anxious moments. They were striving their utmost to eliminate these factors and restore order, for while such conditions existed there was always the possibility of trouble breaking out between the soldiers and the workpeople. This would materially weaken the power of the new Government, and allow its enemies again to become powerful, and although the new Government would, without doubt, be able to hold their own and enforce their new laws, nevertheless it could only be done by terrible and bloody means.

These matters were pointed out to the soldiers and people by well-known orators commissioned by the new Government, but their arguments produced but little result. Special proclamations signed by the new Government were posted all over the city, asking the citizens to return to their work on the Monday morning. In some cases the people did so, but the majority refused. Further special appeals were made, pointing out that as long as the workmen remained out their comrades and fellow citizens in the

trenches would suffer, and that the Fatherland would thus be further in danger.

These arguments induced quite a large number to return to their work, but only where the employers granted the workmen's demands. Their demands, they frankly stated, were only preliminary ones, and they intended to hold special meetings to decide their final terms. These would include instructions to employers as to how works and factories were to be run and, knowing their own power, they were able to enforce such demands with the threat that unless they were granted to them they would burn down the factory. Thus during the following week, although all factories had been at a standstill for practically two weeks, those that resumed work did so with greatly depleted staffs, in many cases not more than half the men returned to their work.

To illustrate the methods and demands of the workmen, the following incident may be cited in connection with a large English mill where the workpeople had always been treated in an exceptionally lenient manner. Throughout the days of Revolution, gangs of

workmen, together with soldiers and sailors, had continually searched the premises for fire-arms and policemen. The owner, however, had taken the precaution, directly the disorder started, that all policemen in connection with the mill were to surrender their weapons to him and then make themselves scarce. The police complied with his wishes, and when the first batch of workmen approached the mill he handed over all the police arms to them and invited them to search, which they did without result. The men then demanded that all mill records should be immediately destroyed as the new era was to commence with new books. The owner and his staff of Englishmen did their utmost to persuade the men that such an act would be detrimental to their own interests, as the mill records contained only information relating to the workmen. The men, however, urged that in those records notes had been made against workpeople who had been during the last twelve or fifteen years discharged for theft, and as there were no thieves now such records were not required. Although on several occasions they were persuaded to go away the

mob finally returned and demanded that the books should be destroyed. Seeing that further argument would be of no avail, the books were handed over to the men, who took them to the boiler house and burned them in the furnaces. Thus were destroyed twelve years' records.

On many occasions the owner and his English staff, who lived quite close to the mill, had their premises subjected to close searches by the mobs, and although treated with respect they passed through some very trying experiences.

On Monday, exactly a week after the terrible "Red Monday," a number of the men returned to their work, but before starting they put a list of their demands before the owner. These provided (1) that certain Englishmen leave the premises at once, as it was said they had on several occasions been harsh in their treatment of the workpeople; (2) that a new schedule of wages be observed, involving an advance of fifty and a hundred per cent. upon the pre-Revolution scale (the increase varied with the skill or position occupied by the workman); (3) that the work-

people should appoint their own foremen or masters of departments, and those permitted to remain would clearly understand that they were on the same footing as the workmen, who were to be treated with the utmost civility and called brothers or comrades. Further, if the workmen wished to hold a meeting they could do so when they wished. These, it must be remembered, were merely the preliminary demands until they could meet and discuss their final wishes.

To these demands the owners were forced to agree under the threat that the mill would be burnt. The workpeople then resumed their work in a most lackadaisical way. During the first few days on several occasions they shut down the mill-engines to hold meetings in the yards.

It had been the practice at the mills that the workpeople could obtain from the mill stores a certain amount of provisions, which were issued under a card system. The English foremen and masters of departments, however, had been allowed a larger amount of provisions than the general workmen. The men now stated that as everybody was on an

equal basis the distribution of the food must be equalised. They allowed the owners, however, exemption from these conditions, stating that their final demands would cover this point. Thus, although very little useful work was done by the workpeople, the wage sheets of this particular mill advanced from Roubles 26,000 a day to Roubles 48,000. This was not an isolated case, in fact the owners congratulated themselves as having been very leniently treated. In many cases workpeople submitted as many as thirty or forty demands to factory and mill owners before they would resume work, in some instances demanding that their wages should be doubled, in some cases even trebled.

When the new Government becomes firmly installed the workpeople will most likely be brought to their senses and convinced that if they receive such ridiculously high wages, it will only have the effect of raising the general cost of living and thus they will make no direct gain.

CHAPTER XII

GATHERING UP THE THREADS

ALTHOUGH practically all of the fighting throughout the Revolution had taken place in Petrograd, slight disturbances had occurred in four or five cities and towns in other parts of the Empire, but these disturbances were not serious, and were frequently the result of local friction. On the Tuesday following the great day of the Revolution, five hundred cities and towns had gone over completely to the Revolutionary Movement with practically no bloodshed. Although this great Revolution has been referred to as a bloodless and peaceful one, it can only be held true if one includes the whole of the population of the Empire. The casualties when considered in relation to a population of 170 million were small; but the fighting took place in Petrograd and its

immediate surroundings and resulted in several thousands being killed, and many thousands badly wounded.

Although it is said that the Revolution is over and that the Republic is an established fact, yet this does not by any means indicate that the present Government has an easy path before it. To anyone intimate with the country and its people such an idea is ridiculous, for it must be understood that with such a vast population it is only natural that there are numerous parties working for their own ideals. The majority of these parties have a more or less common ideal—the freedom of Russia—nevertheless they differ in many respects.

The greatest danger to the new Government are the parties of the old regime and the police. The mere dethronement of the Tzar, the imprisonment of the Ministers, the killing of a number of the police and the elimination of the old police system, does not mean that the old Government is quite dead and incapable of further action. Although practically all the upper classes openly acknowledged that they were in sympathy

BURNING THE EMBLEMS OF ROYALTY
In one instance the crowd seized an American eagle, which shared the fate of its Russian brothers

with the present Government, they quite naturally find it difficult to relinquish all hold of their former ideals and royalist views. The new order of things will mean to such people numerous personal sacrifices, and they will without doubt strive to regain power.

If the old regime were reinstated, their brutality and inhuman practices would be multiplied a hundredfold, and forever reduce the population of Russia to a state of slavery. This is fully realised by all members of the old Revolutionary Party, and the capable Ministers now at the head of affairs, who are real patriots and will sacrifice everything they hold most dear to complete the salvation of the nation. Although the people of Russia have by this terrible war suffered most severe privations, yet they realise that it is not exclusively their war, but that they are merely a part of a huge organisation known as the Allies.

All are striving to overthrow a cruel enemy of civilisation, and mankind generally, and so establish a lasting peace. The new Russians intend to fulfil their bond to the Allies. This Revolution has been throughout,

not only for the salvation of the nation but *for* the War and not against it. Discipline amongst the soldiery in Petrograd seems temporarily to have vanished, still their comrades at the front are maintaining the strictest possible discipline, as they are fully aware that the safety of the Empire now rests with them. Although there are a great number of officers in charge of battalions at the front who are cordially disliked by the soldiers, there has not been one recorded instance where an officer has been killed by his own men or even treated with disrespect.

With a nation such as this with its wonderful powers of self-control, there is little to fear from the enemy, provided that the troops are supplied with the necessary munitions and food-stuffs to carry on the campaign. Although the supply of munitions was temporarily reduced by the stoppage of work in the Petrograd area, this does not mean that the army is without supplies. Throughout the Empire the munition-makers are working at increased pressure to make up the slight deficiency, and when the new Government have the Petrograd Works again going at

their full capacity, and navigation permits of further supplies from the Allies, it will be seen that Russia is able to hold her own as she has done in the past.

The greatest drawback that the army have had to contend with has been the deliberate disorganisation of the railway systems by the old Government, who, although most competently advised, shelved such advice and continued their well-laid plans. Luckily, however, such advice was submitted to Prince Lvoff, Head of the new Government, and Mr. Nekrasoff, Minister of Ways of Communications, who were keen to have the views of a competent authority, and they immediately set about the reorganisation of railway communications and waterways. Naturally such organisation cannot be brought into being in a few days, but already its good effects are being materially felt, and in a very short time the railways will be working at their utmost capacity to supply not only the requirements of the soldiers at the fronts, but the equally needed necessaries of the people.

In addition to the attempts which will be

made by the old regime to regain power, there are numerous, though happily minor, factions which will endeavour to obtain some authority. It is these societies or small organisations that will be a thorn in the side of the new Government for some time to come. We must therefore be fully prepared for reports of disturbances in different parts of the Empire. Such disturbances or outbreaks will, however, have little bearing on the progress of the War, which, like ourselves, the Russians have decided to bring to a victorious conclusion. There is the remote possibility that these minor organisations may be able to cause friction between the parties of the new Government and its Workmen's and Soldiers' Supporting Delegates. Should such an event happen it would no doubt give rise to moments of anxiety, but it would still be unable to alter the programme of the Government to any material extent, for there is no doubt that the Republic of Russia has come to stay.

On Sunday, March 18th (March 5th), the conditions throughout the city had practically resumed their normal aspect, although

large crowds still continued to throng the streets.

During the night considerable excitement was caused by the fact that certain extremists, no doubt of the Nihilist persuasion, careered about the streets in dark-coloured automobiles bearing no numbers or lights, and from these cars they opened fire on the Citizen Militia, killing and wounding quite a large number. In every case the cars escaped, the Militia being powerless to hold them up. These cars became known as the "black automobiles;" their advent instituted a reign of terror, as they continued their murderous exploits for several nights.

The Revolutionary Committee quickly grasped the situation, however, and issued instructions to the effect that all citizens, other than the soldiers and Militia, would be well-advised to be in their houses by ten o'clock at night, so as to avoid the danger of these black automobiles. At the same time it was stated that the authorities would do everything in their power to exterminate these enemies of the people. During the following three or four nights quite a large

number of the Militia and soldiers were killed or wounded before they were able to cope with these dastardly murderers.

The new Government had by special proclamation on Sunday, requested all workmen to resume work in the morning. Vehicular traffic became practically normal, but the tramway services were not yet in operation. The city authorities, however, had large gangs of men and women busy clearing the snow from the streets and making preparations for the tramway service to be resumed on the Monday or Tuesday. In a number of places the overhead trolley wire had been cut by bullets, and workmen were busily engaged in repairing and bringing this into order. On the Tuesday, the first tram to leave the yards bore a large inscription, "Long live the Republic," and every tram was flying a red flag.

The week that followed passed without any serious disturbances other than the black automobiles.

Now that they had been granted free speech and action, all classes of the population were desirous of benefiting as speedily

as possible from the new condition of affairs. Meetings were organised to deal with the welfare of the various units, such as domestic servants, chauffeurs, bank-clerks, shop assistants, etc. One day was allowed each for discussion of matters dealing with hours of work, wages and general conditions.

The first of these meetings was that of the domestic servants. Notices were issued in the papers, and handbills were also circulated to the effect that all domestic servants should, at a certain hour of the day, meet at the nearest cinema-hall in their neighbourhood, where speakers would await them to discuss the future. At the time appointed, every cinema-hall in the city, other than those occupied by the soldiers, was crowded with domestic servants. Heated discussions took place, but they were all unanimous in their opinion as to the future. The chief points which they decided should come into effect immediately were as follows :—

(1) An eight hour working day.

(2) A minimum wage of 40 roubles (approximately £4) per month. (The previous

wages ruling prior to the Revolution were between 10 and 20 roubles per month.)

(3) The mistress should on one day a month give the flat over to the servants for the entertainment of their friends.

There were numerous other minor points, but the above will suffice to illustrate the extent to which their new-found freedom was carrying them.

Although the above demands appear humorous, they were in many cases agreed to by the employers. The older servants, however, who had been used to work any hours and for a low wage, could not bring themselves to be party to the new ideas.

Only a few years ago it was possible to obtain quite a good servant for a wage of from five to ten roubles a month, and such servants would never complain as to hours of work. They were usually obedient and faithful, although somewhat slovenly in their habits. The great question now occupying the minds of housewives in Petrograd is this serious problem of the servant supply. Under the new order of things a servant who com-

menced work at 7 a.m. would cease at 3 p.m., after which time the mistress would have to do what work remained and prepare the dinner, unless she would arrange that one servant started early and the other later in the day.

The demands agreed upon by the chauffeurs were very similar to those of the domestic servants, and thus an eight hour day rather limited one's activities for business. A friend of mine whose chauffeur insisted upon adhering to the new conditions, set out from home at nine o'clock in the morning and at six o'clock in the evening was engaged at a meeting which detained him until 6.30. Upon leaving he was surprised to find that his chauffeur had gone home, having already been out his eight hours.

On another occasion, wishing to call on some friends in the evening he sent word to his chauffeur to have the car round at his house in ten minutes. The chauffeur, however, sent him a polite note stating that his work for the day was done and that he could not undertake to comply with his master's wishes as he was entertaining some friends,

but a friend of his would undertake to drive the car provided he were paid for his time. To this my friend had to agree.

The bank clerks and shop assistants also decided upon very similar demands, and, what to them was more important, were successful.

CHAPTER XIII

INCIDENTS OF THE REVOLUTION

THE following is a brief description of a number of incidents which occurred during the week of strife, and with which I was either personally connected, or which were related to me by my intimate friends as having occurred to them. I can vouch for the accuracy of everything I narrate.

On the Tuesday morning following the severe troubles and commencement of the Revolution, I arrived in my office about ten o'clock and was standing with my partner close to one of the windows when suddenly a bullet passed through the double glass and embedded itself in the ceiling above. At the same moment two machine-guns started firing from the roof immediately overhead. Then commenced a terrific fusillade from the crowd

below, the bullets striking the walls and the edge of the roofing in large numbers. In the next room to mine, an office servant who went to one of the windows received a bullet through the heart and dropped dead.

The feeling of being in a room and hearing bullets spattering around is by no means pleasant, especially when one's windows are to some extent commanded from the streets and from the roofs opposite. I decided to leave the office and join the crowds in the streets, but at the door I was met by a patrol of soldiers who came into the office and gave the order to everybody of "Hands up." They then searched the office, stating that if any fire-arms were found we should be shot. After a diligent search, however, they left us in peace. During the next two hours we were thus held up five times and our persons and offices searched. We endeavoured to leave with the last patrol, but were roughly asked where we were going. When we told them that we were going home they permitted us to leave. The patrol made its way to the roof and soon accounted for the police with their machine-guns.

A very intimate friend of mine was on the Wednesday visiting some friends who possessed a large works on the outskirts of the city. At about five o'clock in the afternoon a party of drunken sailors, led by a young hooligan, forced their way into the yard and demanded that the motor-car belonging to the owner of the works should be given up immediately. My friend, however, who was used to handling Russian workmen, asked them for their permit to take the car. This they roughly retorted was unnecessary, as they wanted the car and were going to have it. He, however, kept them in argument and told one of the servants in English to go and get a patrol of Militia as soon as possible. This the servant did, and upon the arrival of the patrol the drunken sailors were ordered away. Meantime, however, my friend had had rather a trying experience, for one of the sailors placed the muzzle of his rifle against my friend's chest and ordered another one to search him, stating that if fire-arms were found on him he was a dead man. Luckily, however, he was not carrying his revolver at the time.

After these hooligans had been ordered away, my friend returned to the house, and while sitting down to dinner with the owner and his wife, the young hooligan who had led the sailors returned, but this time with twenty-one fully armed and drunken associates and criminals dressed as soldiers. Each man was armed with a rifle, bayonet and revolver. This young hooligan, not more than fifteen years old, had during the previous year been discharged from the works for theft. He entered with his band and declared that police were hiding in the house and that there was also a machine-gun hidden with a stock of ammunition and also large stocks of wines. The occupants of the house were given the order "Hands up," and then these ruffians made a thorough search of the whole house, smashing and disarranging everything.

In the drawer of a desk they found a few Browning cartridges and immediately demanded to know where the revolver was. The owner of the house said that his son, who was at the front, had taken the revolver with him but had forgotten the few cart-

ridges. This, however, they would not believe. One man unloaded his rifle and then, with the remark "Thou seest," he placed a cartridge in the breech, put the muzzle of the rifle at the owner's throat and said, "You have ten seconds only in which to tell me where that revolver is or you die." He then began to count slowly. The owner again stated that his son had taken the revolver. The man counted to seven and then said, "All right, we believe you."

While the mob were ransacking the house, my friend told the owner and his wife in English that he would try and slip out for assistance. He then gradually made his way to the door, picking up a light overcoat as he went, and as he rushed through the gate he snatched off the dvornick's hat and then ran as hard as he could into the city. He endeavoured to telephone to the Embassy and Consulate, but received no reply from either place, the wires were evidently out of order. He then tried a friend of ours, a Senator in the Duma, who also endeavoured to obtain some assistance, but without avail.

The senator advised him, however, to go

out into the streets and the first decent-looking soldiers that he saw put the matter before them. This my friend did, and the soldiers at once advised him to go to the head-quarters of the militia. Upon arriving there three or four militiamen said that they would go with him, but when he pointed out that it would require more than three or four men to deal with twenty-one armed and drunken hooligans, they decided that it would be advisable for him to go to the head of the military.

At head-quarters he was immediately given a detachment of forty soldiers under the command of a self-appointed officer. They then commandeered a large motor lorry and set off for the house. This, although quickly narrated, took about two hours to accomplish, and it was thus about twelve o'clock at night when the motor lorry with its load arrived in the vicinity of the house. There was no firing going on in that quarter, but as the lorry with its load was passing through a square in front of a church and two large buildings, three machine-guns suddenly opened on them, wounding several, my friend, however, luckily escaping.

A SECTION OF A CROWD
The placard bears the legend "Long live the United Russian Republic

Then ensued a fight between the soldiers and the police on the roofs. Many other soldiers and people gathered and a brisk fight, lasting over an hour, took place. Suddenly there was one clang on the church bell and the firing from the roofs and belfries ceased. The soldiers found the keeper of the church and opened the doors, and a party of them made their way to the belfry, where, although they could see where the machine-gun had stood and numbers of empty cartridge cases, there was no trace whatsoever of the gun or the police, who had no doubt made their escape by some underground passage.

Although the original party of soldiers was more or less disorganised, my friend collected together eight soldiers and made his way on foot with them to the house. On arriving there they found both the owner and his wife were uninjured, but the house had been thoroughly ransacked. It appears that directly the heavy fusillade in the streets started the hooligans had decamped. For three hours both the owner and his wife had been forced to keep their hands up. This tiring task they did by sitting in arm-chairs

and resting their elbows on the arms of the chairs, while enduring the insults of the drunken rabble.

The soldiers then went away, leaving two of their number behind to act as guards. These soldiers remained in the house until the following evening, when the owner returned with them to head-quarters to thank those in charge for their kindness. Directly he entered the office, however, he was arrested, several of the men demanding to know where his friend was, the one who had come for assistance. He stated that he was not aware of his whereabouts, but asked the reason for this enquiry.

They stated that they did not believe his story now as it was obvious that he was in league with the police and had arranged to lead the soldiers into a trap. The owner was kept under arrest for some five hours and then released, one of the officers telling him that although he believed that the matter was genuine, he would advise that his friend should leave Petrograd immediately, as if any of the soldiers should meet him they would shoot him on sight.

My friend was naturally somewhat perturbed when he heard of the turn of events, but concluded that as the soldiers had seen him with a light summer coat and a dvornick's hat they would not recognise him in his usual winter attire, and so he remained and risked detection.

During a particularly heavy fusillade in one of the main thoroughfares, another friend of mine took refuge in a doorway, where directly opposite a number of people had been killed and wounded. A motor-car, flying a Red Cross flag, dashed up to the spot, and the chaffeur endeavoured to pick up the wounded. Being unable to do so by himself, he called on the people in the doorways to assist him; my friend immediately rushed out, holding up his hand and shouting, "Krasnie Krest" (Red Cross), and then assisted the chaffeur. The police on the roofs, however, continued to fire, one bullet inflicting a serious scalp wound on my friend, who, nevertheless, continued to render assistance until all the wounded had been picked up, when he himself had to receive medical attention.

On the Monday evening, during the sharpest part of the fighting, I was with a friend at the house of one of the Senators of the Duma, situated in the heart of the city. After we had dined, my friend and I decided to make our way to my office and we accordingly left the house. In the streets bullets were flying in every direction, but by keeping close to the walls of the houses we made our way without injury to the Nevsky Prospect, where we were practically the only persons in that particular spot.

Upon arriving at one of the main thoroughfares crossing the Nevsky, we were met by a hail of bullets from a machine-gun on one of the roofs. Luckily we received no injury, but certainly the situation was anything but pleasant to hear the bullets whistling past, with an occasional thud as they hit the walls. The situation seemed to be unhealthy, so we retraced our steps to the Senator's house.

After waiting an hour or so we decided to make another attempt, but before starting telephoned to our office for information as to the condition of affairs in its neighbourhood. Our office man replied, "For God's

sake, don't come this way, as the fighting round here is terrific, and there is no chance of your getting through." Not wishing to impose upon our mutual friend, we decided to endeavour to reach my friend's hotel, situated about a mile and a half away on the other side of our office. This time we avoided the main thoroughfares as much as possible, and made our way through numerous small by-streets, and although held up continually by fusillades of bullets, we escaped injury.

Just before reaching the neighbourhood of the hotel we arrived at the edge of a large square in front of a church. We were about to cross this space, upon which were a large number of people, when several machine-guns opened fire into the crowd, which immediately dispersed, leaving a number of killed and wounded on the snow. Directly the fusillade ceased, we made a dash across the square, and I myself counted over twenty bodies on the snow; we, however, crossed in safety, and finally arrived at the hotel, it having taken us over two hours to cover the mile and a half.

A rather exciting experience occurred to yet another friend of mine. Owing to the fact that some friends of his were in danger from hooligans, he had obtained a patrol of soldiers to render assistance. En route he was marching along with the patrol when some one in the crowd shouted, "Policeman, spy," which called general attention to him, with the result that he and his patrol were soon surrounded by an infuriated mob yelling for his blood, and it certainly looked very suspicious that he should be walking along surrounded by soldiers.

One of the soldiers shouted to the crowd that he was an Englishman and that they were giving him assistance. This, however, the crowd would not believe but still shouted threats. The soldiers then told my friend to leave them, and walk into the crowd, which would prove that he was not a prisoner. This he did, at the same time stating, "I am an Englishman." Not speaking the language perfectly, his pronunciation was convincing proof. The crowd then heartily gave three cheers for England and allowed him to proceed on his way with the soldiers.

He later told me that he had never felt more afraid in his life, and certainly thought that his last moment had come.

An English family, resident in their house adjoining one of the large cotton mills, were sitting at home when a large mob demanded admittance and stated that they had come to search the premises. They were sure that the police were in hiding, and also that machine-guns were stationed on the mill roof.

The head of the household endeavoured to argue with them, when the crowd threatened to burn down the whole place with its inmates inside. The crowd left the house and opened upon it a terrific fusillade. To escape the bullets the inmates were forced to lie on the floor, where they remained for several hours, while the mob simply riddled the house with bullets and then left. Luckily, however, none of the inmates were injured.

As may be imagined, with mob rule such as existed on the Monday and Tuesday, there were some who took advantage of the conditions prevailing to allow their lower animal instincts to control their actions.

In one case a particularly detested police officer of one of the lower districts was caught in the streets, and so infuriated were the mob, which consisted of the lowest possible characters of the district, that they simply tore the hapless individual limb from limb. Although I was not exactly an eye-witness of this incident, I was on the spot within a few minutes of its happening, and the horrible appearance of the snow, covered as it was with pieces of the unfortunate being, was sufficient evidence of the terrible event.

In isolated cases police officers were tied to their divans or sofas in their *quartiers*, covered with kerosene and then set alight. It must be clearly understood that this only happened in one or two instances and was by no means a general rule. Nevertheless it indicates to what depths an infuriated mob can sink.

Some friends of mine, an old retired gentleman and his wife, live in their own house in a very quiet neighbourhood on the outskirts of the town. During the night of Tuesday, a band of criminals and hooligans disguised as soldiers forced an entrance and demanded

all the money and valuables. These, however, luckily—or unluckily—my friend had deposited a few days before the Revolution with his bankers, only having a matter of a few hundred roubles in the house, which he immediately gave to the looters.

They, however, were not satisfied and instigated a complete search. Finding nothing they broke into the wine cellar and soon became intoxicated. They then proceeded to thrash my friend, his wife and the servants, and left them half-dead and in a most pitiable condition. They endeavoured to fire the house, but without success, as they were disturbed by a party of soldiers who had heard the screams of the inmates.

While mingling with the crowds I was suddenly asked by a hooligan where my red ribbon was. I replied that I was an Englishman and did not wish to wear a red ribbon. This reply, however, did not satisfy my enquirer, who called upon several others and pointed out that I was no doubt a police spy. Luckily, however, under my greatcoat in the lapel of my jacket I was wearing a small Union Jack. This I showed to the crowd,

stating at the same time that although my sympathies were entirely with them I was an Englishman, and that we had a good King who did not like red rags but preferred our flag. This reply apparently pleased the people, who immediately gave three cheers for England, and allowed me to proceed on my way.

This is very indicative of the feeling of the people towards England and the Allies, for in no single instance was a foreigner knowingly molested. During the whole of the fighting only one Englishman was killed, and it was purely his own fault, as he went on the roof of a mill with the idea of "seeing the fun," and upon looking over the parapet he received a bullet through his head, as the crowd naturally thought he was a policeman. Where English families were subjected to any violence it was in every case by the hooligans and criminals, the soldiers and the people being always willing to give every assistance in their power for protection.

The majority of the Army officers who were killed in the streets were elderly men who had spent the best part of their lives in

the Army. These men had always been accustomed to the most implicit obedience from the soldiers and could not easily grasp the new state of affairs now that they and the soldiers were on an equal footing and were all "brothers."

One old retired general I saw walking in front of the Winter Palace was stopped by three soldiers, who roughly demanded the surrender of his sword. The old gentleman did not understand what they meant at first, but upon their repeating their demand he shook his head. One of the soldiers immediately brained him with the butt-end of his rifle, and then unbuckled the sword from the body.

Many policemen were caught endeavouring to escape in various disguises, and I noticed one walking along disguised as a woman. He was a tall man, standing fully six feet, and broad-shouldered, and his general bearing and walk was certainly anything but feminine. He was wearing a thick veil at the time. He was soon noticed by people in the crowd, who stopped him and took off his hat, which came away with a long wig and the thick veil,

leaving a very coarse-featured masculine face with a heavy moustache. He immediately fell on his knees and begged for mercy, but the crowd dispatched him without further ado.

Throughout the days of strife the mortuaries and buildings assigned for the dead were thronged with people seeking missing relatives. I visited one of these mortuaries, and was more than shocked to see the numerous stacks of dead, who, owing to the severe cold, were frozen and stacked up in piles like wood. No policemen's bodies were to be seen, as for two or three days these were left in the streets, more especially on the outskirts of the city, where the people refused to allow any one to touch them, stating, "They are not worth the trouble of touching as they are only food for dogs." Directly the citizen militia took control of affairs these gruesome sights were removed. When the body of a missing relative or friend was found in one of the mortuaries, the relatives would secure a hastily constructed coffin and remove the corpse.

Many people have asked me what it feels

like to be in a revolution and whether I was afraid. To be perfectly honest I must say that there were several occasions when I was anxious for my personal safety. Although I never experienced any feelings of fear, the paramount idea being that one would not be hit, and as a foreigner, whatever one's inner feelings were, it was necessary to keep a bold front. Although this was my first experience of a revolution, it was not the first time I had seen street fighting, for during my twelve years in Russia I had witnessed several bloody revolts. Still, it is certainly the last revolution I wish to see.

I left Petrograd on March 25th (March 12th), after experiencing some little difficulty with regard to my passport. However, owing to the nature of the business in which I am engaged, every facility was given me. At the station it was certainly strange to see everything under the control of the soldiers, the usual customs and police officials being absent.

During the journey through Finland one is usually subjected to customs and passport examination on the Russian and Finnish

frontier, and again on the Finnish-Swedish frontier. This time, however, on ten different occasions throughout the journey through Finland, soldiers boarded the train and demanded to see every passenger's passport. During the night I was roughly awakened by a soldier who demanded my passport, but upon seeing that I was an Englishman he passed on.

I asked one soldier what was the object of these continual enquiries and was informed that they were looking for officers endeavouring to escape. In all cases, however, they treated me with the greatest civility, more especially when I told them I was an Englishman. Upon arriving at the Swedish frontier it was certainly most strange to look across the frontier line and see the blood-red flag of revolution waving from the Russian Customs House.

CHAPTER XIV

THE FUTURE

AS I look back upon the events of the Five Days of the Russian Revolution they seem to me full of contradictions. Men who one moment were pushing living policemen through holes in the ice into the flowing Neva beneath, the next were showing a restraint and sense of justice that were astonishing.

In a few hours the Revolutionary leaders changed the whole aspect of their organisation, took control of a revolt from which they had expected nothing, and turned it into a Revolution from which not only Russia but the whole civilised world expects everything.

A city of two millions of people, the lower orders of which were on the borderland of starvation, was, almost in a matter of hours,

supplied with the food so necessary to the preservation of order.

Thousands of liberated criminals were tracked down, arrested, and reimprisoned that they might not become a public danger.

During the very worst of the fighting, when the fate of Russia hung in the balance, trains were running, telephones working, and telegrams being transmitted.

The lives of foreigners were protected and their property safeguarded, and yet this was a Revolution that was literally sprung upon those who subsequently controlled it. Am I prejudiced when I say " Wonderful Russia " ?

To understand the situation created by the success of the Revolution it is necessary to know the various factors or factions at work. There are at the present moment in Russia eight distinct parties, each with its own ideals. They are :—

1. The Revolutionary Party.
2. The Soldiers' Party.
3. The Workmen's Party.
4. The Jewish Party.

5. The Socialist Party.
6. The Nihilist Party.
7. The Royalist Party.
8. The Police Party.

It cannot be said with any amount of certainty that any of the first six parties will work together; but it is certain that the Royalist and Police parties will never be at variance. They have a common object, the return of the old regime.

If the Revolutionary, Workmen's, and Soldiers' parties could combine no other combination would be able to challenge their position, not even if the Royalist and Police parties were to combine with the other three factions, which is unthinkable.

The object of the Revolutionary Party is the progress of Russia. The Workmen's, Soldiers', Socialist, and Jewish parties are out for themselves; they are individualists. The Nihilists of course represent anarchy, and they are powerful mainly on account of possessing some very able orators. The Royalist and the Police parties will work for the return of the old order of things, and were

they to succeed their day of reckoning would be terrible.

One surprise of this Revolution of surprises was the extraordinary influx of Jews into Petrograd and the prohibited towns and districts when the victory of the people was assured.

In Russia the Jews are allowed to live only in certain Governments and portions of Governments. There are large districts of country and a number of cities, towns, and villages which they are forbidden to enter unless they have a certificate or diploma proving them to be members of some profession or practising a definite trade. The result of this is that Jews who want to carry on their ordinary vocation in the prohibited districts study some profession to enable them to secure the necessary certificate. Then, with a brass plate upon his door announcing that he is a dentist, doctor, or lawyer, the Jew can *sub rosa* carry on whatever trade or profession he may choose in a city or district which officially is taboo.

The power of the Jews lies largely in their wealth and their perfect system of organisa-

tion. Above all, in the subtle methods they adopt; they fight with their brains and are more than a match for the unsophisticated Russian.

At present Russia does not know her own mind. The people are too new to liberty to understand its uses and to know how to avoid its abuses. Simple-minded and instinctively honest according to his lights, the Russian is easily influenced. An impassioned orator can change the political views and aspirations of a whole district. For instance, in Petrograd itself the man who would dare to cry "Daloi Voinu" (Down with the War) would be half killed; yet if that same man took a drojski (cab) to certain suburbs, and thinking to readjust matters by crying "Dazdrastvuet Respublica Voina e Pobeda" (Long Live the Republic, War and Victory), he would undergo exactly the same treatment as he had previously undergone for expressing the diametrically opposite sentiments.

The explanation lies in the power of the local orators. The poorer classes of Russia have never been accustomed to having an opinion of their own. Everything has been

settled for them to their own disadvantage. Now they find themselves a political factor, they are hopelessly at sea, the prey of the last unscupulous demagogue they have heard.

Shortly after the Revolution I witnessed an amusing incident, which to my mind contains the kernel of the whole matter. Walking along the Liegofskaya Ulitza, I paused to listen to a perfervid orator, who, perched on a wooden box, was telling the crowd what the people must have and how they must take it. Presently three men-of-war's men lounged up and stood for a few minutes listening.

One of the sailors was a giant, standing nearly seven feet high. After a short time he seemed to lose patience and, pushing his way through the crowd, went up to the orator and, grasping him by the coat collar with one hand, shook him like a rat. I could almost hear the poor wretch's teeth rattle. "Look here, you shut up," he exclaimed good-humouredly, "We won this Revolution, not you." He then dropped the man and walked away, whilst the orator was muttering, "I'm very sorry, I didn't mean it." The crowd enjoyed the incident immensely, and the orator's hold

upon them had vanished, and whilst they cheered the sailors the orator himself disappeared.

Of one thing there is no doubt, and that is the general enthusiasm of the Russian populace for this country. On one occasion a British officer entered a theatre and was recognised by the audience. The bandmaster struck up the National Anthem and the audience, forgetting the show, cheered the officer enthusiastically. When he had recovered from his surprise the officer bowed his acknowledgments and the performance was resumed.

When British officers are dining in a restaurant, some time during the evening the British National Anthem is always played as a compliment to them. In the early days of the war many Russian bandmasters were under the impression that "Tipperary" was our National Anthem, and this they played very assiduously; but they were told of their error and fell back on the more ancient melody.

After the success of the Revolution the Russian nation was not unlike those political prisoners whom the Revolution released.

Accustomed to the murky gloom of their dungeons, when brought into the brilliant daylight they were blinded and did not know where to turn. They were stunned by their freedom.

For centuries Russia has groaned under the despotism of which the average Briton can have no conception. It is not strange that when, without warning, she found herself freed from its bonds she should stagger uncertainly, not knowing where to turn. The immediate future will see faction striving against faction, party fighting against party. No one who knows Russia will dare to prophesy what the result will be; but the ultimate end will be for the good of the country, just as in the case of the French and the English Revolutions.

It will take time for Russia to realise what she wants. There is no cohesion, no common ideal to inspire her people. She is conscious of having killed a dragon; that is all. The workmen remember their long hours and insufficient pay; the soldiers their harsh treatment and their miserable pittance of little more than a penny a week. The returned

exiles look at their wasted frames and the lost years of their life spent in Siberia ; the Jews remember the pogroms and forget their own avariciousness that caused them. The Socialists think of the Rights of Man and how little they have seen of them in the past ; the Nihilists, Royalists, and Police have a common aspiration—blood.

With all these warring factors at work the future of Russia seems overcast ; but she will work out her own destiny, just as other countries have done. There will be bloodshed, temporary anarchy, even civil war. It is not impossible that the soldiers from the fronts may prove the determining factor in the nation's deliverance. It would be quite in keeping with the Russian character, however, if her salvation eventually lay in the cry that rescued France from chaos upwards of a century ago when the whole of Europe was thundering at her gates : " The Country is in Danger ! "

THE END

THE HOUR HAS STRUCK!

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